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Japan

Cheney Cited on U.S.-Japan Joint Defense Issue

OW1508010492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0049 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Washington, Aug. 14 KYODO—Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Friday that close U.S.-Japanese security relations are crucial to peace and security in the Pacific and any rupture would invite an arms race and instability in the region.

He said tension in the alliance would create a power vacuum in the region and stir fear and concern among its people.

Speaking during a question-and-answer session after an address in Seattle in the State of Washington, Cheney said the long-term prospects for peace and stability in the Pacific are great as long as the security relations between Japan and the United States remain "as close as they are now."

He said, "If we end up in competition, it's likely to create a vacuum which somebody may well try to fill."

The result, he predicted, would be an arms race in the region.

"Under those circumstances, I can't think of anything that is more important than maintaining those ties with the Japanese in the years ahead," he said.

"It's clearly in their interest, clearly in our interest," he added.

On China, Cheney said he does not see the Chinese as a military threat "any time in the near future."

He said the U.S. is concerned, however, about what he called China's "clear involvement" as a source of proliferation of sophisticated weapons to Third World countries.

Tokyo, Russia Consider New Consulates General

OW1508111092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Japan and Russia are likely to agree next month to set up new consulate generals in Niigata, Japan, and Khabarovsk, Russia to spur economic and cultural exchanges in the far eastern regions, Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday.

The agreement is also likely to include a plan to move the Japanese consulate general in Nakhodka to Vladivostok, a recently-opened Russian port city, the officials said.

The moves are part of efforts to expand bilateral relations at a time when Russian President Boris Yeltsin is scheduled to visit Japan in mid-September, they said.

The new Japanese and Russian consulate generals will be the third exchange for each nation, following Japan's consulate generals in St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) and Nakhodka, and Russia's in Osaka and Sapporo.

Niigata, north of Tokyo, and Vladivostok face each other across the Sea of Japan, while Khabarovsk, located about 600 kilometers north-northeast of Vladivostok, has direct flight links with Niigata.

Following the agreement, the two nations are expected to exchange diplomatic notes setting conditions for establishing the new consulate generals and the numbers of officials working there, the officials said.

The Foreign Ministry plans to proceed in its negotiations with the Finance Ministry to secure a portion in the nation's supplementary budget for fiscal 1992, ending next March, to set up the new consulate general, they said.

The Foreign Ministry is also expected to make a budget request for the establishment of new embassies in four newly-independent former Soviet republics—Ukraine, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

In June, the ministry sent a fact-finding mission to the four republics to study traffic and communication conditions as well as consulate general offices already established there by other countries.

Embassies have already been set up in Ukraine by other members of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations. In addition to Japan, G-7 members are Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States.

Emperor, Prime Minister Address WWII Rite

OW1508042692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—An annual government-sponsored memorial rite was held on Saturday to commemorate the 47th anniversary of the end of World War II, with relatives and government officials praying for the 3.1 million Japanese war dead.

At Nihon Budokan Hall in Tokyo, about 6,700 people, including relatives of the war dead throughout the nation and such foreign countries as Taiwan, as well as some 500 government officials, gathered for the memorial service, attended by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Among the government officials were Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and several cabinet members, Yoshio Sakurauchi, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Bumbei Hara, newly appointed president of the House of Councillors.

A number of civic groups also staged peace rallies across the nation amid growing demands from other Asian countries for Japan to pay compensation for its wartime actions, spurred by the enactment in June of a law authorizing the dispatch of Japanese troops overseas for the first time since the war to join United Nations peacekeeping missions.

The war dead mourned at the memorial rite include about 2.3 million military personnel, of whom some 50,000 were from the then Japanese colonies of Korea and Taiwan, and some 300,000 Japanese killed abroad, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry.

They also include about 500,000 who died in U.S. air raids on Japan, including the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Some 55,000 others mourned were forcibly taken to Siberia by the former Soviet Army after the war, the ministry said.

Although the number of the relatives attending the ceremony was almost unchanged from a year ago, there was a notable presence of the children left by the war dead. Half of the relatives were aged 70 or over.

The oldest among those present was Ichino Ibaragi, 90, who lost his then 13-year-old third son in the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, three days before the attack on Nagasaki. He still lives in Hiroshima.

The youngest participant in the memorial service was Mihoko Nema, 10, from Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa. She lost her grandfather in the war.

The service started at 11:50 A.M., with an opening address by Hiroyuki Sonoda, parliamentary vice health and welfare minister.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said, "remembering the lesson from the past war, I firmly pledge that we will do our utmost for the establishment of world peace as a key member of the international community and in realization of the true welfare of our country."

At noon, all the participants stood and observed a minute's silent prayer for the souls of the war victims.

Emperor Akihito said, "I mourn along with the Japanese people for those killed in the war and pray for world peace and further development of our country."

Representing the relatives at the memorial rite, Tetsuo Fukumura said, "Each of us further renews a pledge to protect the peace and freedom our country enjoys and willingly strive for world peace."

Fukumura, 61, from Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan, lost his father on the Philippine main island of Luzon.

The ceremony closed as one representative of the relatives after the other placed flowers for the souls of the war dead at the front of the hall, to the accompaniment of Beethoven's Eroica symphony.

Cabinet Ministers Pay Homage at Yasukuni Shrine

OW1508104592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and 11 other ministers of the 20-member cabinet paid homage to Japan's war dead enshrined at Yasukuni shrine in central Tokyo on Saturday, the 47th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

Three other cabinet ministers had already visited the shrine before Saturday.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa did not visit the shrine out of an apparent concern that such a visit might affect diplomatic relations with neighboring Asian countries. Miyazawa has said that he will pay his respects to the war dead at the shrine in a private capacity at an appropriate time.

Others who did not go to the shrine were Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato, Education Minister Kunio Hatoyama, and Environment Agency Chief Shozaburo Nakamura.

The shrine, a Shinto repository for the souls of all Japanese who died in the war, is associated with the country's military past and such visits cause concern, in part because seven convicted war criminals are among the dead enshrined there.

Among those honored at the shrine is Hideki Tojo, prime minister during most of World War II and a general in the Japanese Imperial Army. He and 24 generals, admirals, and diplomats were convicted of war crimes in trials held in Tokyo after the war. Tojo and six of his co-defendants were executed in December 1948.

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone became the first postwar prime minister in 1985 to make an official visit to Yasukuni shrine, eliciting criticism at home and abroad, especially in South Korea and China.

Since then, successive prime ministers have refrained from paying homage to Japan's war dead at Yasukuni, although a number of cabinet ministers worship at the shrine each August.

The Osaka High Court ruled last month that the 1985 visit to the shrine by Nakasone may have violated the constitutional separation of state and religion.

In August last year, 12 ministers visited the shrine.

Of the 15 who visited the shrine this week, only one, Health and Welfare Minister Tokuo Yamashita, said he went in his official capacity.

Five who said they went in a private capacity were Justice Minister Takashi Tawara, Construction Minister Taku Yamasaki, Management and Coordination Agency Chief Junzo Iwasaki, Science and Technology Agency Chief Kanzo Tanigawa, and the director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, Tomoo Ie.

The nine others either refused to say or it was not known what capacity they went in. Besides Hata, they were Agriculture Minister Masami Tanabu, Trade Minister Kozo Watanabe, Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe, Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo, Home Affairs Minister Masajuro Shiokawa, Defense Agency Chief Sohei Miyashita, and National Land Agency Chief Yoshiyuki Toya.

It is not known whether Economic Planning Agency Chief Takeshi Noda plans to visit the shrine.

Parties Issue Statements on War Anniversary

OW1408124992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP), the country's largest opposition party, accused the government Friday for having failed to apologize sincerely to Asian peoples for Japan's wartime responsibility.

The SDP, issuing a statement on the eve of the 47th anniversary Saturday of Japan's surrender in World War II, said the government "should decide to make an apology and give reparations heartily without trying to avoid the stains of the past."

Komeito, the No. 2 opposition group, issued a statement saying it "will make utmost efforts to achieve a world without war, eliminate nuclear arms, and promote disarmament."

The Japanese Communist Party said, "we strongly need to renew our determination not to allow a recurrence of a war of aggression and dispel all hegemony toward other races."

The Democratic Socialist Party said it will "renew its determination for peace and try sincerely to carry out the UN peacekeeping cooperation law" that was enacted August 10.

The United Social Democratic Party said, "it is an urgent task to establish the new world order aimed at abolition of nuclear arms and total disarmament."

Opposition, Activists Oppose Troop Dispatch

OW1508104692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0921 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Opposition parties, peace activists and relatives of Japan's World War II dead marked the 47th anniversary of the war's end Saturday with calls for peace and criticism of plans for Japan's first postwar dispatch of troops overseas.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP), the biggest opposition group, renewed its renunciation of war at a memorial service at a Tokyo cemetery for the war dead.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe told the assembled 200 people, most from labor unions, that the party will urge that Japan "abide by the pacifist Constitution in the face of the government and ruling party intent to pave the way for the dispatch of troops overseas using as an excuse the United Nations peacekeeping operations."

The U.N. Peacekeeping Operations Cooperation Law, which passed through the Diet in June, took effect Monday and allows Japanese Self-Defense Forces personnel to join limited U.N. peacekeeping missions. Opponents say the law violates the postwar Constitution, which rules out the use or threat of force to resolve international disputes.

At the memorial rite at Chidorigafuchi cemetery for the war dead, cosponsored by two affiliate groups, participants one by one laid white chrysanthemums before a memorial enshrining Japan's more than 334,000 unknown war dead.

Leaders of the centrist Komeito and the Japanese Communist Party took to the streets separately to mark the anniversary.

Relatives of war victims joined other civic groups in opposing the visits Saturday of 12 cabinet ministers to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which enshrines war dead that include Class-A war criminals.

The participants launched a peace March to the shrine in the afternoon before holding a meeting with people from other Asian countries living in Japan to discuss peace.

They also criticized the Peacekeeping Cooperation Law, and [words indistinct] Nishikawa said Japan is apparently "treading the same path we once did."

"The peacekeeping law is the worst law since the war," Nishikawa told the 200 assembled people. "Its concept is, 'in the beginning, there is the dispatch of troops abroad,' and it is tantamount to the national mobilization law during the war of aggression," he said.

Japan is making a final preparation for sending troops to join the U.N. mission in war-ravaged Cambodia.

In Osaka, about 850 people participated in an international forum on the problems of Asian women, forced to serve as prostitutes in military brothels for Japanese soldiers during World War II, and Japan's compensation for the so-called "comfort women."

Former "comfort women" from South Korea testified after showing slides depicting their wartime suffering.

"I was forced to serve as many as 50 Japanese soldiers a day," one women said. "My friends who resisted were killed."

Seiji Yoshida, 78, who acknowledges forcibly rounding up Korean women to be prostitutes, said, "I deprived crying mothers of their babies and took the mothers away. I, as one of those who trampled on their humanity physically and mentally, wish to devote the rest of my life to apologizing."

The Japanese Government recently acknowledged official participation in recruiting "comfort women," reversing its position that private operators procured the women after a professor found evidence of army involvement in government archives.

But the government says it has found no evidence that the women were forced into prostitution, despite recent admissions such as Yoshida's.

Antiwar poet Itsuko Ishikawa read one of her works concerning "comfort women" to the Osaka group, and an organizer appealed for participants to pledge a renunciation of war, saying, "don't repeat the past misdeeds."

In the afternoon, peace activists from five countries, including South Korea, the United States and Germany, discussed the issues of "comfort women" and postwar compensation.

House Speaker Sakurauchi Leaves for India

OW1608064792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0556 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO—The speaker of the House of Representatives, Yoshio Sakurauchi, left Tokyo on Sunday for India to attend ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

Sakurauchi, who is also the chairman of the Indo-Japanese Association, is expected to meet Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

His delegation will present Indian hosts with a total of 10,000 seedlings and seeds of Japanese cherry trees, and in return will receive 1,000 seeds each of lotus and linden trees.

The lotus is India's national flower and the linden its national tree, and the cherry is Japan's national flower.

The lotus and linden trees will be cultivated at the Koishikawa Botanical Garden of Tokyo University and will be donated to parks and temples all over Japan as a symbol of friendship between the two countries.

India will also grow the cherry trees at a national plant study center and plant them at various places in the country.

Sakurauchi will return to Tokyo on Thursday.

Miyazawa Pledges Emphasis on Land Measures

OW1508104992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged Saturday that a planned government pump-priming package will emphasize measures to reactivate land and stock trading, officials said.

Miyazawa made the commitment in a meeting in Tokyo with Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), the officials said.

Miyazawa and Hiraiwa exchanged views on the economy and the package of pump-priming measures to be instituted by the government later this month.

The two leaders agreed that the Japanese economy faces a grave situation, and Miyazawa pledged the government will stress measures to tackle land and stock problems in formulating the economic package, the officials said.

Miyazawa and Hiraiwa agreed that necessary funds should be raised through the issuance of construction bonds instead of deficit-covering national bonds, they said.

Hiraiwa reportedly expressed hope that the government would launch additional public works projects worth 6 trillion to 7 trillion yen in fiscal 1992.

The business leader also urged Miyazawa to buy land held by financial institutions to use for public works and come up with effective measures to stimulate sluggish stock trading.

After the meeting, Hiraiwa told reporters that Miyazawa showed a positive stance concerning these problems.

More Local Government Bond Purchases Planned

OW1708025292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 7 KYODO—The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications is planning to boost purchases of local government bonds to help prime the sluggish economy, ministry officials said Monday.

The ministry is also considering extending loans to local governments, the officials told KYODO News Service.

These measures would be financed by funds at postal savings accounts that can be used by the posts ministry at its own discretion.

They said the measures would help local governments issue more bonds to raise funds for their public works projects.

The posts ministry is considering the measures because private financial institutions remain reticent to lend, weighed by swollen bad debts and a slump in stock prices, they said.

Those measures may form a main pillar in the government's pump-priming package scheduled to be adopted on August 28, the officials said.

Postal savings funds, after being collected by post offices around the country, are entirely incorporated into the Finance Ministry's Trust Fund Bureau, with part of the funds appropriated for the fiscal investment and loans program, or the so-called second budget.

Some of the funds are extended to the posts ministry in loan for investment in public and corporate bonds. The system was inaugurated in 1987 as part of a liberalization of the financial system.

As of the end of March, the balance of such funds operated directly by the posts ministry stood at about 15 trillion yen, of which 9.1 percent or 1.37 trillion yen was invested in bonds issued by local governments and government-affiliated organizations.

But a law regulating postal savings would have to be revised before the postal savings funds can be extended in loans. Hence, the ministry will ask for a revision to the law as part of its fiscal 1993 budget request due late this month, the official said.

"Such loans are effective in supporting local business conditions," a posts ministry official said.

The government is planning to ask local governments to purchase land held by financial institutions as collateral for real estate loans for future public works projects, in order to help stimulate the nation's economy. The land-purchase plan is aimed primarily at unwinding problem loans.

In accordance with the March 31 emergency economic package, local governments are considering front-loading 78.6 percent of their public works spending in the first half of the current fiscal year, which started in April.

The central government plans to request that local governments increase their public investment so as not to create a "vacuum" in the second half.

Amid dismal national economic activity, however, local governments face a tight fiscal environment due to lower tax revenues.

Figures Reflect Slower Economic Recovery

OW1508081692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0734 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 15 KYODO—Government figures show that the Japanese economy will not begin to recover as soon or grow as fast as officially forecast, private economic think tanks said Saturday.

The research institutes said recent government statistics point to a turnaround beginning early next year, ruling out a recovery starting in the October-December quarter this year, as the Economic Planning Agency has forecast.

And, they said, the slower recovery will make the government's target of 3.5 percent economic growth for the fiscal year ending next March hard to achieve.

In particular, the think tanks argued, companies may find themselves strapped for funds to invest in plant and equipment because of the recent plunge in Japanese stock prices.

The Planning Agency reported that such capital investment remained sluggish and job openings declined in June for the first time in 45 months, indicating the economic slump has spread to the labor market.

The agency said its June survey of corporate capital investment plans for this year showed zero growth, the lowest on record.

Notably, capital investment planned by manufacturers—chiefly electric machinery and nonferrous metals, which have trimmed production in a bid to reduce inventories—declined 8.3 percent from the previous year.

New machinery orders, excluding those from electric utilities and those for ships, which are regarded as an important indicator of investment trends a few months ahead resumed their declines in June after a slight recovery in May.

The agency said it was not sure the trend would turn around in the July-September quarter in view of slow progress in inventory adjustment by manufacturers.

Meanwhile, sales at chain stores nationwide in June decreased from a year earlier, while those in the Tokyo area recorded a year-on-year decrease for the fifth straight month in July.

Housing starts posted a mild 1.0 percent increase in June, but the Construction Ministry said it is too early to predict a full-scale recovery.

A full-fledged economic recovery now hinges on pump-priming measures to be formulated by the government later this month, the research insitutes said.

Nations Agree on Bering Sea Pollack Fishing Ban

OW1408132192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Six nations agreed in Moscow Friday to a two-year ban on fishing for Alaskan pollack in the Bering Sea starting next year, Japanese Fisheries Agency officials said.

Japan, the United States, Russia, China, South Korea, and Poland gathered in the Russian capital Wednesday for a three-day meeting to discuss regulating pollack fishing in the area.

Moscow and Washington called for restraints to cap the decline in the number of Alaskan pollack in the Bering Sea, while other countries led by Japan and South Korea argued against the need for an unconditional ban.

The parties compromised by accepting a freeze on the fishing operations until 1994, the officials said.

Japan's Alaskan pollack catch quota in 1992 was reduced by 20,000 tons from last year to 120,000 tons.

Survey Shows Siberia Emitting Methane Gas

OW1408122392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 14 KYODO—Siberia is emitting large amounts of methane gas that contributes to the atmosphere's "greenhouse effect," according to a Japanese report published Friday.

At the same time, Siberia is helping reduce global warming by absorbing large amounts of carbon dioxide, the National Institute for Environmental Studies said in the report.

Both methane and carbon dioxide are among the heat-trapping gases whose buildup is known to increase the "greenhouse effect" in the atmosphere and bring on global warming.

The institute took air samples over forests and tundras in eastern Siberia in a 50-hour aerial survey last month in cooperation with a Russian research organization, institute officials said.

The density of methane over Siberian marshlands, which the officials said is generated by the decomposition of plant material, was higher than the world average.

But the density of carbon dioxide 300 meters above the ground was lower than the world average.

The officials said Siberian forests, like the Amazon rain forests, absorb a large amount of the gas.

North Korea

Russian Statement on Vice Premier's Remarks

SK1508050592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 15 Aug 92

["Statement of Spokesman of Russian Foreign Ministry on Russian Deputy Premier's Outburst"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on August 13 on the utterances recently made by Russian Deputy Premier Mikhail Poltoranin in Japan hurling mud at the DPRK and disparaging the joint efforts of the Korean and Japanese peoples for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

The statement reads in full:

Foreign media recently reported about the remarks made by Russian Deputy Premier M. N. Poltoranin about the conditions of the DPRK and the Korea-Japan relations during his visit to Japan some time ago.

In this connection, we would like to state that the above-mentioned remarks were not quoted in the context of the passages but were arbitrarily interpreted obviously to render them a sensational nature.

Russia that does not interfere in the ongoing DPRK-Japan talks considers that she has no right to utter words about the content of the talks.

Russia, a third party, hopes that the talks will end successfully, considering that the talks promote peace and security in Northeast Asia.

Russia's position toward the DPRK is well known. We think the relations with the DPRK should be established respectfully on the principles of non-interference in other's internal affairs and good neighbourhood and on the basis of mutual benefit.

Boris Yeltsin Sends Letter on Liberation Day

SK1508002892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Congratulatory letter from Boris Yeltsin, Russian president, to Kim Il-song, DPRK president, on the 47th anniversary of Korean liberation—read by announcer]

[Text] Pyongyang

Your Excellency Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK

Respected Excellency President Kim Il-song:

On behalf of the Russian people, Russian leaders, and on my own behalf, I wholeheartedly congratulate you on the 47th anniversary of Korean liberation.

15 August 1945 is a special commemorative day cherished in the hearts of the Korean people as well as by the Russian people. 15 August 1945 was not only the day of gaining freedom and liberation desired by Korea but also the historic landmark day in which our two countries' relations took firm and deep root.

We, the Russian people, express respect to the Korean people, who have respected and memorialized our people, who sacrificed themselves for Korean liberation and for the Korean people's happiness.

I expect that the monuments established in memory of the Soviet soldiers sacrificed on the Korean land will perpetually remain as symbols for the friendly relations between the DPRK and Russia.

Russia is making efforts to guarantee durable peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, which directly borders Russia, to establish normal relations between the North and the South, and not to produce weapons of mass destruction. Russia is satisfied that the recent events taking place on the Korean peninsula are progressing to this end.

Russia will make sustained efforts to create favorable external conditions in external relations to resolve the issues concerning Korea peacefully and fairly.

I expect that in the 21st century, which will be the time of the Asian-Pacific region, to which our two countries belong, Korea will be an independent and democratic reunified country.

I take this opportunity to wish you and all the Korean people happiness and well-being.

I express respects to you.

Yeltsin,
15 August 1992, Moscow

Kim Il-song Greets Yeltsin

SK1508053692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a personal letter of greetings today to President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin of the Russian Federation on the 47th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

The letter says:

The August 15 liberation was a historic event in our people's struggle for independence, sovereignty and socialism.

Since the liberation, the Korean people have turned their backward country into an independent, sovereign socialist state, prospering and developing, and are vigorously fighting to bring into full play the advantages of Korean-style socialism centred on the masses they have chosen and built by themselves and achieve peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

Our people always remember the exploits of the Red Army who joined the Korean People's Revolutionary Army in the struggle for Korea's liberation.

I believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two peoples with a long history will continue to develop on the principles of independence, equality and non-interference in other's internal affairs.

I take this opportunity of wishing you health and the Russian people success in the work for the country's prosperity.

CIS' Shaposhnikov Sends Greetings

SK1708104892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 17 (KCNA)— Marshal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, received a message of greetings from Y. Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the United Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

Warmly hailing the 47th anniversary of Korea's liberation, he wished the officers and men of the Korean People's Army success in their militant work.

The message wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Wreathlaying Ceremony Held on Liberation Day

SK1608025592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1547 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—Wreaths were laid in the Mt. Taesong Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery Saturday [15 August] on the occasion of the 47th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

Present at the wreath-laying ceremony were Vice-Premier Chang Chol, officials concerned and generals of the Korean People's Army.

Foreign diplomatic envoys here were also present.

Wreaths were laid in the cemetery in the joint name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Then followed the wreaths from the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, the Foreign Ministry and other central organs and the Korea-Russia Friendship Association and the Pyongyang municipal party, power and administrative and economic bodies.

Working people in Pyongyang and embassy officials of the Russian Federation put floral bunches in the cemetery.

A wreath was also laid in the name of the embassy of the state of Palestine.

Wreaths were laid before the Liberation Tower and the Cemetery of Men and Officers of the Soviet Army by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the joint name and the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, etc. on this occasion.

Pyongyangites and embassy officials of the Russian Federation presented floral bunches before the Liberation Tower and the Cemetery of Men and Officers of the Soviet Army.

Wreaths and bunches of flowers were laid before the liberation towers and the cemeteries of men and officers of the Soviet Army in local areas on the same day.

Further Reportage on Pan-National Joint Meeting

Resolution Adopted

SK1408125392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—A pan-national joint meeting to vow to fight for the abolition of the "National Security Law" and the release of long-term prisoners and pro-reunification patriots was held here today.

At the meeting the participants expressed their resolution to struggle for the release and repatriation of pro-reunification patriots and long-term prisoners, denouncing the South Korean authorities' continued suppression and persecution of them as an anti-reunification criminal act.

The special resolution adopted at the meeting says:

Firstly, a nationwide joint struggle will be actively promoted in the North and the South and overseas for the abolition of all fascist laws including the "National Security Law" that impedes national unity and reunification of the country.

Secondly, a campaign of sending letters to the South Korean authorities in the name of regional headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), activist organizations and bodies and individual personages at home and abroad, demanding the release of pro-reunification patriots including the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and coed Yim Su-kyong and long-term prisoners and repatriation of old man Yi In-mo to his home will be continued.

Thirdly, a joint struggle will be waged in the North and the South and overseas to form consolation teams for pro-reunification patriots now in prison and dispatch them to the spot.

Fourthly, international solidarity movements calling for the release of pro-reunification patriots and long-term prisoners and the repatriation of old man Yi In-mo will be extensively waged in various forms such as rally, demonstration and signature campaign, depending on local conditions.

Pomminnyon Vice Chairman Gives Speech

SK1408150692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—A pan-national joint meeting to vow to fight for the abolition of the "National Security Law" and the release of long-term prisoners and pro-reunification patriots was held here today.

Present at the meeting were home delegates and overseas delegates who came to attend the third pan-national rally and the second grand reunification festival of youth and students in the North and the South and overseas working people and youth and students in the city.

Paek In-chun, vice-chairman of the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), made a keynote report at the meeting.

He said: The "National Security Law" [NSL], an anti-national, anti-reunification evil law which antagonizes the fellow countrymen and totally denies national unity runs diametrically counter to the idea of national reunification which presupposes great unity of the nation.

The "NSL" defines those who favor contact, meeting and dialogue between the North and the South as targets of punishment, thus making it impossible to achieve reconciliation and unity between the North and the South.

Under this "NSL" not only all the progressive political parties and organizations and their members calling for democracy in South Korean society and independent reunification of the country but those who encourage, praise and sympathize with such parties and organizations or make contacts with their members are punished as "criminals" without exception.

While the "NSL" is left intact and the long-term prisoners and pro-reunification patriots remain behind the bars under the "law", it is impossible to bring any dialogue to success and improve the North-South relations and to achieve great unity of the nation and reunification of the country. Paek said, adding:

We should conduct on a nationwide scale the campaign for the abolition of the "NSL" in order to achieve the national reconciliation and unity and reunification of the country.

We should wage a joint struggle for the release of the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, coed Yim Su-kyong and other reunification champions and long-term prisoners and for the repatriation of old man Yi In-mo.

Then followed an experience-swapping and speeches by delegates of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon at the meeting.

They demanded that the South Korean authorities immediately abolish the "National Security Law" and release at once all the imprisoned visitors to the North, pro-reunification patriots and prisoners of conscience.

A special resolution demanding the abrogation of the "NSL" and the release of long-term prisoners and pro-reunification patriots was adopted there.

The resolution urges that if the authorities of the South side truly intend to put an end to the confrontation and achieve reconciliation and unity in keeping with the spirit of the North-South agreement, they should abolish at once the "NSL", the "Law on Supervision for Public Peace," the ideological conversion system, and all other anti-reunification laws and institutions that violate the freedom of thought and strictly bar people's participation in the reunification movement.

They must unconditionally set free all the pro-reunification patriots including the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and student rim su gyong and prisoners of conscience including unconverted long-term prisoners whom they imprisoned by invoking the evil laws, says the resolution.

Yim Min-sik, secretary general of Pomminnyon, Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's headquarters of Pomminnyon, and others were present at the meeting.

Japanese 'Brutalities' Denounced

SK1408154492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1521 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—Delegates of different countries to the 44th session of the subcommission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities under U.N. held in Geneva on August 7, discussing the problem of "contemporary-type slaves", spoke about the brutalities committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people in the past.

Addressing the session, Etsuro Totsuka, delegate of the International Educational Development Association, said that though 1.5 million Koreans were taken to Japan in "labor draft" and forced to most backbreaking slave toil during Japan's occupation of Korea, they have not yet got any compensation owing to the defects of the Japanese legal system and the indifference of the government.

Refuting Japan's assertion that this problem has been settled by her "agreement" with South Korea by which she promised 300 million dollars of funds and 200 million dollars in loan, the speaker said: The international educational development association considers that, although the South Korean "government" gave up the claims of compensations by individuals and their right to diplomatic protection, their claims against Japan remain valid.

He recalled that more than 200,000 Korean women were abducted or taken away and forced to sex slavery by the Japanese Army during the Second World War. The Japanese Government, in its parley with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, contends that this problem and the forced labour did not contravene the then internal law, he noted, and added:

But the International Educational Development Association considers this argument wrong.

The association urges the U.N. organizations to take necessary measures for the above-said victims as they did vis-a-vis Germany for the European victims to Nazism.

Referring to the issue of "comfort women for the army," Yi Chol, representative of the permanent mission of the DPRK to the U.N. Secretariate in Geneva, who was heading the DPRK delegation said that the more than 200,000 Korean women who were forced to sex slavery during the Second World War included girls under twelve and married women with children. Now in their advanced ages of 70 to 80, the evening of their lives, they call for a thoroughgoing solution of the matter to prevent the repetition of such inhuman acts in the world, the speaker said.

Japan, he went on, must not try to evade its responsibility with a few ordinary words of apology or perfunctory investigation, but open to the public at an early date all the materials concerning the "comfort women" which are in their exclusive possession, hear testimonies of the Japanese concerned and the victims and thus fully investigate the truth of this problem and publish the results. Otherwise, Japan cannot expect confidence of the international community and the misgivings about and distrust in her by other countries, the Asian countries in particular, will grow stronger, he warned.

No More Reliance on Foreign Forces Urged

SK1508121392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA)—The 3rd pan-national rally held at Panmunjom today called upon the entire fellow countrymen at home and overseas to lift up louder voices demanding that the responsible authorities give up the policy of depending on foreign forces and honestly implement the documents of North-South agreement from the stand of national independence.

The appeal to the compatriots at home and overseas adopted at the rally says that the adoption and effectuation of the agreement the keynote of which are reconciliation and nonaggression between the North and the South and of the joint declaration on denuclearisation was a dramatic event which opened a prospect for peace and reunification of the country.

The authorities of the North and the South should reject dependence on outside forces and their interference and sincerely implement the agreement and joint declaration on denuclearisation from the stand of national independence and thus fulfill the responsibility they have assumed before the country and the nation on the road to reunification in the 90s, the appeal notes.

Saying that there can be neither peace nor reunification in Korea as long as the U.S. Forces stay in the South, it demands an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. Forces from South Korea.

The most proper form [words indistinct] to confirm the way of reunification common to the nation is a nationwide political consultative conference, the appeal states.

It stresses the need for all parties, all groupings and the people of all segments in the North, the South and overseas to actively turn out for a successful holding in Pyongyang or Seoul or Panmunjom before August 15 next year a political consultative conference for national reunification in which the authorities and representatives of all parties and all groupings will take part.

It calls upon the compatriots, brothers and sisters at home and abroad to strive for reunification through confederacy, a fair formula of reunification common to the nation.

It calls for achieving great unity for national reunification and calls upon the compatriots, brothers and sisters at home and abroad to struggle for the destruction of all the legal and institutional mechanisms by which those who turn out for independence, democracy and reunification are arrested, and for the opening of the way of an independent civilian-level dialogue and free travel of compatriots in the North, South and abroad.

It calls upon the compatriots at home and overseas to struggle for the formation of the South side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) and vigorously wage a nationwide movement for the release of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, coed Yim Su-kyong and other visitors to the North and champions of reunification and an early repatriation of Mr. Yi In-mo to his family.

Authorities Called To Implement Agreement

SK1508123492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA)—A letter to the authorities of the North and the South was adopted at the third pan-national rally in Panmunjom today, which calls upon them to respect and honestly implement the North-South agreement, the keynote of which are reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange, and the joint declaration on denuclearisation.

The authorities must neither read the face of others nor move at another's instructions but solve all the problems with it as the basic principle and the starting point of the implementation of the provisions of the agreement and the accomplishment of the cause of national reunification to maintain the independent stand, the letter says.

It stresses that the authorities should get the U.S. Forces withdrawn from the southern half of the country, uproot the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons, stop all the war manoeuvres, realise disarmament and abolish the "National Security Law" as practical measures for guaranteeing peace of the country and creating preconditions for peaceful reunification.

Emphasizing that a nationwide agreement should be reached on the way of national reunification, the letter says: A political consultative conference for national reunification in which the authorities and representatives of all parties, all groupings and people of all strata in the North, the South and overseas will participate should be held on August 15 next year in order to confirm the way of reunification common to the nation.

The door of independent civilian-level dialogues and contacts must be opened and the freedom of the actipities of "Pomminnyon" [Pan-National Federation for Reunification] be guaranteed.

U.S. Troop Withdrawal Resolution Adopted

SK1508125292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA)—A nationwide struggle will be waged to get the U.S. Forces withdrawn from South Korea, declares the joint resolution which was adopted at the third pan-national rally held here today.

The resolution says a nationwide campaign for the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces will be uninterruptedly conducted in an organized manner from September 1, 1992, to August 15, 1995, that would be the first year of national reunification, on regional scales in the North, South and overseas.

It states that a massive drive for the abolition of the "National Security Law" will be waged at home and abroad in order to remove all the political and institutional conditions contradictory to national reconciliation and a joint struggle be launched at the same time for the release of all the visitors to the North and pro-reunification patriotic figures who have been arrested and punished under this "law".

An active struggle will be waged, it says, against the policy of the "unified channel of dialogues" enforced in South Korea and for the opening of a way by which not only the authorities but also civilians would be able to make contacts and visit each other freely.

The resolution stresses that under the condition of the country where there exist two different [words indistinct] and South, the formula of reunification through confederacy with neither side conquering or being conquered is the most reasonable and realistic way of reunification.

Solemnly proposing to convene a political consultative conference for national reunification involving the authorities of the North and the South as well as representatives of political parties, groupings and social strata at home and abroad in Pyongyang or Seoul or other convenient place on August 15 next year to confirm the formula of national reunification, we declare that we will make every possible effort to realise it, the resolution says.

It lays emphasis on the need to launch a nationwide struggle in the North, South and overseas in order to correct the national history distorted by Japan in the past and solve the problem of the "comfort women for the army".

We will closely unite the Koreans of all walks of life and Koreans' organizations at home and overseas under the flag of Pomminnyon [Pan-National Federation for Reunification], an umbrella organisation of the reunification movement, and, in particular, wage a solidarity struggle so that the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon can be inaugurated at an early date, declares the resolution.

Pomminnyon Chairman Gives Report

SK1508125692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1059 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA)—Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), made a keynote report at the third pan-national rally for peace and reunification of the country held here today.

The reporter outlined the brisk activities conducted by the North side's headquarters of Pomminnyon in the past one year for the peace on the Korean peninsula and its reunification in the 90s in a close contact with overseas and South side's Pomminnyon organisations.

When we characterize the reunification movement of Pomminnyon today, we can say confidently, firstly, that we have become able to organize on a nationwide scale the reunification movement which had been conducted separately without a nationwide umbrella organisation of the reunification movement in the past and develop it into a purposeful movement guided by Pomminnyon and, secondly, that we will have an important influence on accelerating the implementation of the North-South agreement, creating preconditions for peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification and opening a bright prospect for confirming the formula of reunification common to the nation, the reporter stressed.

Referring to the basic tasks of Pomminnyon at the present stage of the reunification movement, he said:

The first task which faces Pomminnyon is to vigorously organize and conduct the nationwide movement to get the U.S. Forces withdrawn from South Korea.

All the compatriots in the North and the South and overseas should pay due attention to the aggression policy of the United States which seeks to keep its forces in South Korea, calling them "a deterrent to war" even after the North-South agreement was effectuated, and should dymamically conduct a nationwide movement to get the U.S. Forces withdrawn by 1995, the first year of reunification.

The second task is to wage a nationwide joint struggle to remove all the political and legal obstacles to national reconciliation and unity.

What is most important here is to scrap the "National Security Law" of South Korea which is the biggest obstacle to national reconciliation.

The Koreans at home and abroad should make all efforts for the release of the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, coed Yim Su-kyong and other pro-reunification patriotic figures and those related to Pomminnyon who have been unreasonably arrested by the South side's authorities under the "National Security Law", and for the repatriation of old man Yi In-mo.

The third important task is to actively struggle for an honest implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Our organizations of "Pomminnyon" should fully expose and frustrate the purpose sought by the splittists in their clamour about fictitious "nuclear development" of the North, actively struggle for an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea and realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula by our own efforts.

The fourth important task is to play a leading role in confirming the formula of reunification common tm the nation and achieving reunification.

"Pomminnyon" delegates of the North, the South and overseas held in Pyongyang on August 12 a political consultative conference to confirm the formula of reunification and reached the consensus of opinion that our country should be reunified by means of confederacy based on one nation, one state, two [word indistinct] and two governments and announced it in a joint declaration.

I hold that we should confirm the formula of national reunification at [words indistinct] by further consolidating and developing this success of "Pomminnyon" and reflecting the general will of our nation.

The fifth task is to play a leading role in (?developing) the independent non-governmental dialogues and exchanges and the sixth task is to [word indistinct] the organization of "Pomminnyon" under the banner of great national unity and further develop the mass movement for reunification in the 90s.

I solemnly assure you that the North side's headquarters of "Pomminnyon" will discharge its duty in carrying out the noble idea and historical mission of "Pomminnyon".

Documents Adopted 15 Aug

SK1508131892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1112 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA)—Documents were adopted at the third pan-national rally for peace and reunification of the country which was held here today.

The joint resolution states that every effort will be made for the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces from South Korea and adoption of the formula of national reunification based on a nationwide agreement and an active struggle be waged into correct the national history of Korea distorted by Japan and solution of the question of "comfort girls for the army". [sentence as received]

The letter to the authorities of the North and the South calls for respecting and sincerely implementing the points of agreement adopted and effectuated between the North and the South and for reaching a nationwide agreement on the formula of national reunification and widely open the door of nongovernmental dialogues.

An appeal to the compaoriots at home and abroad calls upon all the fellow countrymen to intensify the struggle to hasten the day when they will live happily together in a reunified land, saying that it is time they should wage the reunification movement in great [word indistinct] by subordinating everything to reunification and national interests, with reunfication in the 90s [words indistinct] as a realistic goal.

The letter to the Japanese Government authorities hopes that they will pursue a correct policy, clearly [word indistinct] that it conforms to the interests of the country and the nation to apologize and fully compensate for the past crimes against the Korean nation and abandon the policy of militarization threatening the security and peace of the Asia and Korean peninsula.

Pomchonghaknyon Declaration Adopted

*SK1508135892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1128 GMT 15 Aug 92*

[Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA)—A declaration was adopted at the inaugural ceremony of the Pan-national Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) which was held in Panmunjom today.

Pomchonghaknyon is an umbrella organisation of pan-national reunification movement of students.

With the formation of Pomchonghaknyon the students in the North, the South and overseas, rallied closely under one banner, have become able to develop the patriotic movement for reunification to a higher stage, the declaration says.

In the 10-point declaration the students in the North, the South and overseas state that they will wage a vigorous struggle for the application of the three principles of national reunification of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, adopting them as a mandatory reunification program.

Holding that reunification by means of [words indistinct] is most reasonable and realistic, the declaration says: We will wage a powerful struggle for an early convocation of the political consultative conference for national reunification to confirm the formula of reunification and for the creation of favorable preconditions for peaceful reunification including the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialists and their nuclear weapons from the land of South.

And we will valiantly struggle to accelerate the implementation of the North-South agreemant and joint declaration on denuclearisation.

We will actively conduct [words indistinct] and exchanges [words indistinct] in the North, the South and overseas with Pomchonghaknyon as the centre and fight to the end for the release of those who visited the North for reunification and patriotic students now behind bars in South Korea.

We will reliably guarantee the reunification movement of the Pan-National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), a nationwide umbrella organization of reunification movement, by strengthening Pomchonghaknyon, and join hands with the progressive students of the world in defending independence and conduct a powerful joint action.

Japan Urged To Apologize

*SK1508153692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1519 GMT 15 Aug 92*

[Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA)—The third pan-national rally held here today urged the Japanese Government authorities to admit the unfortunate past imposed upon the Korean nation by Japan, take a proper step and renounce the policy threatening peace and security in Asia and on the Korean peninsula.

A letter to the Japanese Government authorities adopted at the rally urges them to clarify their stand and attitude on the Japanese imperialists' colonial domination and on the matters of conscription, labor draft, victims to the A-H bombs and the comfort girls for the army during the Pacific war.

The Japanese Government authorities, it notes, are not taking a measure for sincere compensation, confining themselves to a perfunctory apology, and are taking about the establishment of "a fund" as if they were bestowing "favors." This is another outrageous act against the dignity of our nation and the second murder of the victims.

If they truly want to play a responsible role in Asia, they must begin with frankly admitting their past crimes against other nations and making sincere apology and compensation .

Notably, the construction of the nuclear reprocessing facilities promoted by Japan and her policy of stockpiling plutonium are a new threat to Asia. This arouses apprehensions among the world peaceloving people.

The letter continues:

We make it clear that nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula comes from Japanese policy of increasing nuclear capacity now being promoted, not from the North. We solemnly declare in the name of the entire 70 million Koreans that we will not tolerate any act that impaired the dignity and honor of our nation, however long past it may be.

We hope that the Japanese Government authorities will adopt a correct policy, clearly conscious that it accords with the interests of the country and the nation to make an adequate apology and compensation for the crimes committed against our nation in the past, and abandon the militarist policy threatening peace in Asia and on the Korean peninsula.

South Side Gives Report

*SK1508154992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1525 GMT 15 Aug 92*

[Text] Panmunjom, August 15 (KCNA)—The keynote report of the South side's headquarters was conveyed at the third pan-national rally [PNR] for peace and reunification of the country which was held at Panmunjom today.

The report said:

The third PNR has been compelled to be held separately in Seoul and Panmunjom by the dastardly and vicious obstructions of the South Korean authorities, but it is taking place at the same hour on the same day and on the same subjects. This means that the rally is a dramatic event in bringing together the will of the 70 million fellow countrymen in the

North, South and overseas for reunification and soon to achieve reunification in the 90s.

The report noted that the adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement and the declaration on denuclearisation is an epochal event in the history of our nation's reunification movement and a historical success that has instilled new hope and expectation for national reunification into the hearts of all the compatriots.

Now, through the cooperation of the whole nation, we should supervise and urge an honest implementation and practice of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearisation and sternly judge the anti-reunification acts distorting their contents and neglecting their practice, it said, and continued:

For reunification, the U.S. interference encroaching upon our sovereignty must be ruled out and practical independence must be secured through the recovery of the power of military operation, the dissolution of the "South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command," and so forth and measures be taken for the withdrawal of all the U.S. Forces and total eradication of the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons, stressed the report.

And the anti-reunification evil laws like the "National Security Law" and mechanisms must be removed and the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, Yim Su-kyong and other reunification champions and political prisoners of conscience arrested under this law be released. A nationwide agreement on the formula of reunification should be reached through the permission of free debate on reunification. To block the debate on reunification and leave the formula of reunification to the discretion of the group in power is to allow reunification itself to be used only for the vested rights of the ruling forces.

We hail and support the proposal for the convocation of national political consultative conference with the participation of representatives of various social strata, organisations and political parties in the North, the South and overseas and the authorities of the North and the South to reach a nationwide agreement on the formula of reunification, the report said.

At the meeting, it urged, a concrete discussion should be made on the proposal for reunification through confederacy designed to achieve peaceful reunification, the North and the South respecting the different systems of each other. The report called for opposing Japan's militarism for the reunification of the country and global peace and wresting from it legitimate compensations for its aggression and domination.

South Students Open Pomchonghaknyon

SK1608082192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0758 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 16 (KCNA)—The South side's headquarters for the promotion of the pan-national rally [PNR] on August 15 held the PNR, the inaugural ceremony of the Pan-national Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) and other functions as scheduled at Seoul National University by shifting from Chungang University which had been designated as the venue of the functions, while the authorities branded the PNR as "illegal" and were running riot after encircling Chungang University with more than 10,000 police troops of 100 companies to block it, a Seoul-based radio reported.

The participants in the rally occupying the lawn square and roads in front of Seoul National University held a gathering for reunification games and a dance party and published a joint resolution with the North side's headquarters and overseas headquarters which were holding the PNR in the northern portion of Panmunjom.

In the joint resolution the South side's headquarters fully supported the proposal of reunification through a confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments and expressed the unanimous determination to uphold the three principles of national reunification—independence, peace and great national unity—as the reunification programme.

The 10-point resolution includes the withdrawal of U.S. Forces from South Korea and opposition to the authorities' monopolistic position in the debates on reunification.

The National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) of South Korea held the inaugural ceremony of Pomchonghaknyon at Seoul National University on the same day and published an inaugural declaration and programme. The Pomchonghaknyon inaugurated that day is a federation of Chondaehyop, the Korean Students Committee and the organizations of Korean youth and students overseas and it is an umbrella organization whose mission it is to fight against outside forces that stand in the way of national independence and peaceful reunification and for great national unity, declared Chondaehyop.

It resolved to make 1995 the first year of national reunification, announcing that Pomchonghaknyon would strive for support of the proposal for reunification through confederation and for independent exchange between youth and students in the South, the North and overseas.

A forum on reunification proposals and peace and disarmament was held, a letter to long-term prisoners adopted, a roundtable with an old woman who had been drafted into the "volunteers corps" and various other functions took place at the PNR.

Workers affiliated with the National Council of Labor Movement organizations held a rally together with students participating in the PNR to vow to fight to make Japan apologize and make compensations for the Japanese imperialist colonial rule and fight against Japan's militarist revival. And the society for the support of Yim Su-kyong called a press conference at the university and published a 602-men declaration urging the release of Yim.

Meeting Ends in Seoul

SK1708054492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0502 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 17 (KCNA)—More than 10,000 students under the National Council of Student Representatives of South Korea (Chondaehyop) congregated in campus street in Tongsung-tong, Seoul, Sunday [16 August] afternoon and held a report meeting of the pan-national rally before wrapping up the 1992 pan-national rally, press reports from Seoul said.

At the meeting, the students demanded that the inter-Korean agreement be implemented and the chairman of Chondaehyop who had been walked away by police be released.

They denounced the South Korean "Government" for banning the pan-national rally even after the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement.

Earlier, the students distributed to passers-by literatures on the pan-national rally and held protests, divided into groups by 1,000s in Sinchon and other parts of the city.

The students shouted anti-U.S. and anti-"government" slogans and demanded they be allowed to march to Panmunjom to meet with the representatives of the North, a foreign press report from Seoul said.

About 300 women students could be seen performing folk dances and singing songs, as some of their companions waved white, black and blue flags depicting a unified Korea, the report said.

The South Korean authorities mobilized combat police 25,000 strong in the crackdown Sunday.

Activities End in Pyongyang

SK1708060792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Pyongyang, August 17 (KCNA)—The delegates of the North and overseas held an "evening of culture for reunification" at the Table Tennis Gymnasium in Chongchun Street Sunday [16 August], having successfully wound up the third pan-national rally and the inauguration of the Pan-national Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon).

Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), said in his speech that the historic third pan-national rally, the second grand reunification festival of youth and students and the inaugural ceremony of Pomchonghaknyon which had opened amid the great expectation and interest of the fellow countrymen were successfully wound up. This solemnly demonstrated once again at home and abroad the unshakable will of the 70 million Koreans to achieve reunification in the 1990s without fail, he added.

Yim Min-sik, secretary general of Pomminnyon, said the overseas Koreans understand that reunification means making the motherland larger, brighter and mightier. He called for vigorously fighting to reunify the country by 1995, closely rallied under the banner of Pomminnyon with renewed courage, confidence and will.

Kim Kyong-hui, a student of the Pyongyang Naengchon Senior Middle School, handed to Kim Chang-o, co-chairman of the overseas headquarters of Pomchonghaknyon, a silk banner prepared with sincerity to hail the inauguration of Pomchonghaknyon.

The participants joyously spent the "evening of culture for reunification," singing and dancing.

South Korea

No Tae-u Addresses Liberation Day Meeting

SK1508083792 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0125 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Speech by ROK President No Tae-u at a meeting marking the 47th anniversary of national liberation held at the Independence Hall in Chonan County, South Chungchong Province—live]

[Text] Dear 70 million fellow countrymen at home and abroad: Today we mark the 47th anniversary of national liberation and the 44th anniversary of the founding of the state with renewed deep emotion and hope. I consider it very significant that we ponder the true meaning of national liberation and vow our resolve to create new history at this Independence Hall, which was built by all the people with a warm volition of national self-respect.

It is a great joy for all of us today to report the brilliant triumph in the Barcelona Olympics to the patriotic forefathers who yearned, even in their dreams, for the fatherland's liberation when we lost our country. The Barcelona Olympics began with our national anthem and ended with our national anthem. A son of the ROK with our national flag on his chest won the marathon race and washed away the bitter remembrance of the nation 56 years ago. We, who created the glory of the Seoul Olympics four years ago, implanted the image of the indomitable Koreans again in the hearts of the world's people. As we commemorate this liberation day with this pride, the joy of our 70 million fellow countrymen is greater. We have this glory today, thanks to the sacrifice of the patriotic martyrs who devoted everything they had for the sake of the great heritage of our forefathers and fellow countrymen.

Today also marks the founding of the Choson Dynasty, which built the backbone of our national culture 600 years ago. With the achievements and teachings of King Sejong, the nation's teacher who created Hangul [Korean alphabet]; of Admiral Yi Sun-sin, who saved our country from the Japanese bandits; teachers Toegye and Yulgok, and other patriotic forefathers, the root of our national spirit grew.

Although we suffered the tragic fate of losing the country in the 20th century, we were able to maintain the legitimacy of our national history, thanks to the persistent struggle of the patriotic martyrs and the Independence Army for national liberation. I express my deep and respectful gratitude to all the ancient sages and patriotic forefathers who devoted their lives to the nation.

My dear fellow countrymen: The 47 years we have traversed have been a great history for the realization of a reunified fatherland of the Korean nation overflowing with democracy and prosperity. The suffering of the division and war resulting from the cold war and the poverty that held our nation for a long time were unable to force us to submit. We rose from the ruins of war and realized an economic miracle with the fastest growth in the world, making everyone envious. With the 29 June declaration, we abolished the long authoritarian rule and opened an era of democracy overflowing with the vitality of freedom.

We also began to pull down the wall of the cold war and create a new world order for mankind's harmony. Our north politics expanded the arena of Koreans' activity to the entire world and opened an era of peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula. Today, we are no longer a weak nation whose fate is in the hands of the world's major powers. We are the Koreans of unswerving determination who overcame political oppression, the bondage of the cold war, and the fear of war on our own.

Since World War II, many countries have gained independence on earth and successively come to realize their national ideal. However, even though half a century has passed, it is difficult to find countries that have realized economic prosperity and democratic development to the same degree as our ROK. The work of increasing the economic scale and national income by two times in the course of realizing democracy was something that could be achieved only by us. The history of democracy and prosperity which we have realized has made a positive contribution to mankind's prosperity and peace. Thus, we are more proud of this history.

We have realized brilliant economic development and democratic experiences. They have become a model for various countries in the world to follow.

Today, the Korean people are producing commodities for the world. They are shedding their sweat everywhere in the global village to construct a better future. They are working not only to turn the hot desert into a fertile place but also to develop the Siberian tundra through their sweat.

The successful launching of the satellite Uribyol No. 1, which was made by our science and technology, expands the field of Korean people's action into space, moving beyond the five oceans and six continents.

I wholeheartedly thank our fellow countrymen for silently working and shedding their sweat all over the country and everywhere in the world to build a better future for the fellow countrymen.

My fellow countrymen:

I said here four years ago that achieving a prosperous reunified fatherland was the only way to complete the incomplete liberation. With the hope and confidence of achieving reunification within this century, we again are gathered here today.

Thanks to our sustained efforts, the barrier of division is being pulled down and the road to reunification is being paved. The great changes in the international order and our reunification-oriented diplomacy have removed all external barriers blocking the fellow countrymen's reunion.

The issue of reunification has become a task for our fellow countrymen to resolve with their own efforts. With the South-North basic agreement and declaration on denuclearizatin signed in February 1992, South-North relations have entered a stage of reconciliation and cooperation, and mutual distrust will disappear when the two sides sincerely implement what they have agreed to. Now, the North and the South are entering the stage in which the people can visit and understand each other and in which commodities are being exchanged.

Only when the North and the South accumulate the experience of helping and being helped by each other by sincerely implementing what they have agreed to, can mutual distrust be dissipated.

The 47th anniversary of liberation means that the generation born after liberation has become the leading body of elites who should lead our nation. The North and the South should exchange information and promote traffic so that the new leading elites may understand each other's reality. Today when the world is changing daily, if the North and the South adhere to closure and confrontation, the North and the South cannot but fall behind in the world's historical march. This would be an indelible crime in the nation's history.

Unless misgivings about nuclear development—which threatens national survival and peace—are removed, no substantial development in South-North relations can be expected. If North Korea genuinely desires coexistence and coprosperity, the two sides can easily resolve this nuclear issue through pooled resourcefulness. It is very regrettable that the North side did not fulfill the inter-Korean agreement on the exchange of the separated families' elderly parent visiting groups on this liberation day under absurd conditions and pretexts. The early settlement of the issue of displaced families is a very important and urgent task which the North and the South are obligated to the nation to fulfill. The North and the South should display the wisdom of making it a rule to exchange home-visiting groups of separated families and to open a special zone as a venue for family reunions.

Opening Mt. Sorak and Mt. Kumgang simultaneously can help realize this goal.

Along with the solution to these pending issues, we should push ahead with economic cooperation earnestly.

Putting into practice inter-Korean economic cooperation will help promote the entire nation's welfare and solidify a practical foundation for reunification. I hope that a full-fledged survey will be undertaken to implement specific economic cooperation as soon as possible.

My fellow countrymen: With the approach of the 21st century, the world calls for a new civilization to be born and for a new world order to be established. Today's information-oriented world is being integrated into a huge market, with each country opening its border. The competition for regional and international prosperity is becoming more fierce.

Economic might and technology, and knowledge and information have become the yardstick for measuring national strength. We should take advantage of and respond to the present era of great changes, when a new society is emerging, in order to realize our national desire. A bright 21st century awaits people who prepare thoroughly for the future and who can look ahead.

In the past four years, we have industriously prepared for entry into the ranks of the advanced countries through democratization, internationalization, and the upgrading of industries. Although our economy still has problems, the foundation for its stability has solidified this year, and its competitiveness is in the process of growing stronger.

We will make the dream of an advanced country come true and enable the entire population to be affluent by achieving the goal of a per capita income of $10,000 to $15,000 before the end of this century. We will open the door to a great era for the Korean people by decorating the end of the 20th century, which began with national suffering, with success and achievement.

In the past, when our national strength was weak, Asia was a land of disputes where the major powers amplified their interest. Only when we have a reunified fatherland and become a powerful country of freedom and prosperity will we be a reliable bulwark defending peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

My fellow countrymen: The dazzling development we have made over the past generation was possible only because our self-confidence pushed us to perspire more than anyone else. We can achieve nothing if we hesitate, are skeptical, blame others, and seek only personal gains.

We must be vigilant against our enemies of pessimism and sarcasm. Under no circumstances should we allow ourselves to become frustrated and indulge in self-defeat merely because of the trifling difficulties facing us today, forgetting the brilliant accomplishments we have achieved so far. People with pride and self-confidence can open the door to a great era.

The innumerable athletes who have created new myths at the Barcelona Olympics, marathoner Hwang Yong-cho in particular, are the symbol of Korean people, who are not only self-confident but have also have capitalized on their unyielding fighting spirit. Hwang Yong-cho's victory is a national victory. Not only has he healed our pains, but he also tells us what road we should take in the future.

We all are running up the steep slope toward the finish line of our marathon that leads us to reunification and into the ranks of advanced countries. Even when things are difficult and we are tired, we must keep running toward the goal, which is in sight, without stopping to rest.

We can never afford to stop running. We should vigorously run in our marathon toward reunification and toward the status of advanced country until we reach the finish line by restoring strength and courage.

Let us all see to it that our enormous national energy, which was confirmed in the Olympic Games, is fully displayed in all sectors of society so that the country can reach a new height of development. Let us all join the ranks that are advancing toward the creation of a new glorious national era.

In conclusion, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to those who have been cited for their distinguished service in achieving the cause of national independence, and their families.

In particular, it is especially meaningful and rewarding that I could confer medals on those residing in China and in the former Soviet Union who have rendered distinguished service in realizing national independence and their descendants.

Thank you.

No Tae-u on U.S. Trip, Yeltsin, S-N Issues

SK1508044292 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Aug 92 p 5

[Interview with ROK President No Tae-u by managing editor Min Tae-ki in Seoul on 14 August]

[Text]**Question: What do you think the Sixth Republic has accomplished?**

Answer: In the Sixth Republic, the nation has started a take-off toward an advanced society and a unified nation through the process of democratization, internationalization and liberalization. We have put an end to an era of authoritarian rule. The people no longer question the legitimacy of the government. Few take issue with human rights conditions and freedom of the press in the nation.

We have managed to bring about social stability after ending the turmoil accompanying the process of democratization in a short period of time. It is also worthy to note that the nation's gross national product and the per capita income have doubled since the inauguration of this administration.

For the first time in the history of the nation, we have opened an era when ordinary people are enjoying material wealth. The 1988 Seoul Olympics was an occasion for the nation to show to the world its dramatic change into a prosperous and democratic country.

Democratization has helped enhance the nation's international prestige. It has helped the country successfully host the Olympics, carry out policies to improve relations with Communist and socialist countries, and foster an atmosphere for peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula.

The inter-Korean basic agreement and the nuclear-free declaration went into effect last February. They are documents marking an epochal change in relations between South and North Korea since the end of the Korean War (1950-53).

I think that it will not be long before the nation can achieve reunification, putting an end to the tragic territorial division.

Q: You are to attend the plenary session of the U.N. General Assembly next month. Do you have plans to make new unification proposals or other suggestions to North Korea in your U.N. speech? If you meet U.S. President George Bush, what will you discuss with him?

A: As has already been announced, I will make a keynote speech at the U.N. General Assembly next month as head of a member state. My itinerary in New York City is now being worked out, but I expect that I will meet with the U.N. secretary-general and heads of some of our allies.

In 1988, the year of my inauguration, I announced the July 7 Special Declaration aimed at heightening national pride and accelerating the process of national reunification. In October of that year, I made a keynote speech at the U.N. General Assembly, setting forth my initiatives designed to establish a peace structure on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

I announced a unification formula based on the concept of national community in September 1989. I also made clear our position regarding unification, in my U.N. speech last year when South and North Korea jointly entered the United Nations. I believe such incessant efforts on our part has led to the adoption of the basic agreement between South and North Korea and the joint declaration for denuclearization. South and North Korea will be able to forge better relations and advance the date of unification when they faithfully carry out the two accords.

I hope that I will meet President Bush in New York if he also makes a speech at the United Nations this fall.

Over the past four and a half years, I have met with President Ronald Reagan once and President Bush six times. At the talks, President Bush and I have had extensive discussions and increased understanding of each other's position not only on bilateral issues but also on questions relating to the peace and stability of the Northeast Asian region, including the North Korean question, and other international matters.

The world situation has changed greatly during the past one year. So it would be imperative for presidents of the two countries to coordinate policies toward North Korea, including one to deal with the North Korean nuclear question, and exchange views on the political situation in Northeast Asia and other international matters.

Q: In what way do you think the North Korean nuclear question will be resolved? What steps do you have in mind in case the question is not solved?

A: The nuclear question on the Korean Peninsula generated by doubts over North Korea's nuclear development program is a matter of deep concern not only for our people but also for the entire world. The North's nuclear question should be resolved as early as possible to make the Peninsula free of nuclear threats and to secure global peace and security. I want to stress that the denuclearization declaration adopted and brought into force jointly by the two Koreas must be implemented without fail.

In order to clear misgivings about the North's nuclear program, reciprocal nuclear inspections between South and North Korea should be carried out in addition to surveillance of North Korean nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). And we are making great effort to realize inter-Korean mutual inspections.

North Korea will no doubt consider a number of factors, including changes in the international political situation, its economic hardship and the resolute stance of South Korea and its allies.

The North must be aware that without solution of the nuclear question, it cannot improve relations with South Korea and other countries. In this sense, I think, the North will have no other choice but to accept inter-Korean nuclear inspections.

Q: Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Seoul next month. What will be discussed in your talks with Yeltsin? And do you expect that President Yeltsin will express regrets regarding the Korean War?

A: President Yeltsin's visit is meaningful in that he will be the first head of state of the Russian Federation to visit Seoul since its inauguration under a new system last December.

President Yeltsin and I will discuss matters of bilateral concern, including ways to expand cooperative ties between the two countries. My understanding is that President Yeltsin is especially interested in promoting Korean-Russian economic cooperation. We will have an extensive exchange of views on this matter as well.

President Yeltsin and I are also to sign a basic treaty on Korean-Russian relations. The treaty will manifest the will of the two countries to develop future-oriented ties on the basis of such commonly respected values as freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and the principles of market economy.

I am confident that the treaty will greatly contribute to increasing friendship and understanding between the two people and expanding substantial cooperative ties. I believe that in order to ensure future-oriented relations, the two countries should review the past history of their relations. The Korea-Russia basic treaty will refer to the need for joint efforts to overcome their unfortunate past.

The two governments and research institutions of both sides are now exploring historical materials that would help shed light on the Korean War and the bilateral relations of the past.

It is meaningful that in a Korea-Russia textbook seminar held in Seoul early this month, the Russian side disclosed its intention to write in its textbooks that the Korean War was triggered by the North Korean invasion of the South.

Q: Diplomatic analysts say that Korea-Japan relations have grown cold in recent months. The question of the so-called "comfort women" has emerged as a very sensitive issue between the two countries. What steps will the government take on the matter?

A: Korea and Japan have developed friendly cooperative ties since the normalization of relations in 1965. The two countries have inseparable relations historically and culturally. Travelers between the two countries numbered 205 million last year alone. Commodity exchanges amounted to about $35 billion.

Whenever difficult questions such as the liquidation of the unfortunate past arise between the two countries, they stir up the national sentiments of the two peoples, thus influencing bilateral relations overall. I believe, however, that such a problem can be overcome when the two countries make joint efforts to address it. If the two peoples exert efforts to better understand each other, cooperative ties between the two countries will be further strengthened.

Particularly there is the need to intensify efforts to promote dialogue and mutual understanding between post-World War II generations of each country, who I am afraid do not know much about each other. During Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to Seoul last January, the Japanese government announced a plan to invite 100 Korean students annually for five years from this year. As a corresponding step, our government has decided to invite 60 Japanese students every year for five years from next year.

I also understand that exchanges to promote mutual understanding are being pushed in many other sectors as well. I hope that such efforts will spread to journalistic circles, academia and all other walks of life.

On the question of Korean women mobilized for sex service for Japanese soldiers during World War II, the government has since late last year been urging the Japanese government to thoroughly establish facts and take commensurate measures. Prime Minister Miyazawa, during his visit to Seoul in January, also pledged to do his best to establish the truth.

We should deal with the question in two ways, by determining the facts and taking follow-up steps. I think overriding importance should be placed on finding the truth in terms of bringing the history of our unfortunate past to light.

Q: Contrary to the global trend of arms reduction, countries in East Asia appear to be bent on building up arms. Some Asian countries are reportedly competing to purchase top-quality weapons of the former Soviet Union. Some reports also say that Japan is stepping up efforts to build up arms for its Self-Defense Force. With regard to these developments, what do you think of the recently raised concept of fostering a collective security system in the Asia-Pacific region?

A: Against the backdrop of the emerging new world order in the post-Cold War era, there is argument that the Asia-Pacific region needs multilateral security cooperation as in Europe. The regional security cooperation system being referred to, unlike collective security systems in the past such as the League of Nations or the United Nations, is a new concept which emerged in the wake of recent changes in international politics and the global security environment.

The concept refers to a process of building confidence and eliminating tension among countries in a region as they cope jointly with military questions and all other matters that affect regional security. At the present, however, I do not see good prospects for a multilateral security cooperation system being realized in the Asia-Pacific region.

This region comprises of numerous countries with different historic, cultural, political and economic backgrounds. They have different interests in terms of security, and some conflicts in the region have yet to be resolved.

In short, the situation has not yet matured enough for a multilateral security cooperation in this region. However, we will maintain a flexible position: while closely watching security developments in the region, we will do research on whether such a system is necessary and practicable in this part of the world.

Q: What's the significance of our participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operation? What benefits can be gained?

A: The existing international security systems, which have their origins in the Cold War era, can no longer play effective roles in resolving various conflicts taking place during this period of realigning world order in the wake of the end of the Cold War. New international situations require the United Nations to play a more active role.

The trend of the U.N. peacekeeping operation is to extend the scope of its activities to cover such fields as supervision of truce and maintenance of order in conflict areas, checks on human rights conditions and election management. The role and status of the United Nations as a central organization for the maintenance of world peace and the formation of a new global order is being strengthened. Under these circumstances, the government has decided to actively participate in U.N. peacekeeping activities.

Our participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operation will contribute to strengthening friendly cooperative ties with our allies and improving relations with the countries with which we have not yet set up formal ties.

Q: Are you confident of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's victory in this year's presidential election?

A: Several public opinion polls have so far predicted that the ruling party's Kim Yong-sam will win. I understand that most political analysts and foreign news media also hold the same view. My belief is that the majority of voters hoping for continued growth amid stability will vote for our party.

I admit that our party has not fully met the expectations of the people. But I can say with conviction that ours is the only party with the capability to complete the tasks of democratization, prosperity and national reunification. It is also more experienced in administering state affairs than any other party.

I believe that our party's candidate Kim Yong-sam has a broad base of support, transcending regional and class differences. I am confident that Kim will be elected president and that on the basis of his integrity and democratic leadership, he will form a "powerful government" to carry out "responsible politics."

Q: Some economic indicators such as commodity prices are showing signs of improvement. However, the nation is still registering a huge trade deficit. Businesses are going bankrupt at an alarming rate in both Seoul and the provinces. What is your prediction for the nation's economic condition for the rest of the year?

A: Our economy over the past several years has suffered difficulties as the nation underwent a transitional period in the process of democratization. But the national economy is now regaining its vitality with the successful implementation of policies to secure stability and improve competitiveness of the manufacturing sectors.

The government has also been promoting the expansion of social infrastructure and increased investment in projects to improve productivity and science-technology development. As a result, the economy registered a healthy 7 percent growth during the first half of this year. Prices have risen a modest 4.3 percent by the end of July. Exports grew by 9.3 percent, while imports increased by only 3.5 percent.

It is true that many small firms are still suffering difficulties and the domestic stock market is in a slump. These are hardships the nation cannot avoid in the process of restructuring the economy to a higher plane.

Signs are that global economic recovery will begin later this year and that the pace will be accelerated next year. The domestic economic situation is expected to improve greatly if we continue a policy of promoting growth amid stability.

Economic prospects are generally bright, but we should be on guard against some destabilizing factors. With the economic war among nations expected to become fiercer, there are signs that prices of international crude oil and raw materials may go up.

The bankruptcy of marginal businesses in the course of economic restructuring may create a sense of crisis. There is also concern about the moves of numerous interest groups ahead of the coming presidential election. The utmost emphasis during the rest of this year will be placed on improving the nation's industrial competitiveness.

Our economy is expected to register a healthy 7 percent growth this year. Commodity prices are likely to go up by around 8 percent, 1 to 2 percentage points lower than originally predicted. The trade deficit is expected to reach about $7 billion, $1 billion lower than the original prediction.

Q: Do you have any plans to take steps to reinvigorate the domestic stock market?

A: I am well aware that many investors have suffered losses and businesses are experiencing financial difficulties because of the slump in the stock market.

There are calls for measures to boost the market. But the stock market question cannot be resolved by artificial and short-term measures. I believe the market can be reinvigorated only when the nation's overall economic situation improves.

But I expect that the stock market situation will gradually improve as many economic indicators are showing signs of improvement.

The government will consistently take steps to reinvigorate the national economy while not hurting its stability, thus helping the stock market regain vitality on its own. The government will also see to it that the market will not be influenced by noneconomic factors such as political and social changes.

DPRK Said Helping Syria Build Missile Factory

SK1508142692 Seoul YONHAP in English 1019 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Paris, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—Syria is now under construction of a Scud-C missile factory with the help of North Korean technicians, a French daily said Saturday [15 August] in a Jerusalem-datelined story.

LE FIGARO reported, quoting Israeli and Western diplomatic sources, that a production plant for Scud-C missiles and guided equipment is being built in Hama, adding that another underground factory seems to near the completion in Aleppo, northern Syria.

Syria has already secured everything such as raw materials essential to making the missiles, a North Korean advisory group and manufacturing skills needed to produce Scud-C missiles threatening Israel, the paper said.

All gadgets to manufacture Scud-C missiles and other types of missiles were shipped to Iran from North Korea early this year and then they were secretly transported to Syria, it added.

Assistant Commerce Minister Remarks on NAFTA

SK1608061692 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 15 Aug 92 p 3

[Report on an interview with Yu Tuk-hwan, first assistant commerce minister who doubles as chairman of the North American Free Trade Association Task Force, by reporter Chang Yun-yong on 14 August—place not given]

[Text] "It is difficult to say for now whether the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] can be considered the emergence of a tendency to form trade blocs or a step toward global free trade, which is the goal of the Uruguay Round negotiations.

The government and businesses must prudently deal with this issue. We must pool our wisdom to maximize what we can get from this agreement and minimize its adverse effects."

So said Yu Tuk-hwan, first assistant commerce minister who doubles as chairman of the NAFTA Task Force, on 14 August. He also said that the government would map out countermeasures upon obtaining details of the agreement.

He also said that the NAFTA is an agreement that reflects the U.S. "philosophy" of turning the entire world into a single free trade area, adding that it is premature for us to formulate a plan to establish an East Sea [Sea of Japan] basin economic sphere or other regional economic cooperation organizations in response to regionalism, which has emerged as a transitional phenomenon.

[Reporter Chang Yun-yong] Would you elaborate on the background of the signing of the NAFTA?

[Yu Tuk-hwan] The United States played an important role. The United States has pursued free global trade through the Uruguay Round. However, prospects for a settlement at the Uruguay Round of negotiations have been slim. Also, the EC integration will take place at the end of 1992. Feeling threatened by these developments, the United States is now trying to protect its domestic industry and economy through the NAFTA.

The United States has selected agricultural goods, the high technology industry, and the service industry as the "three industries necessary for U.S. existence" and put pressure on other countries at the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to protect these industries. An important feature of the NAFTA is loosening restrictions on agricultural trade and financial services. This shows a U.S. will to revive the three industries.

[Chang] What are prospects for the tendency to form economic blocs?

[Yu] The United States will sooner or later pursue the establishment of a Pan-American economic sphere that will include South America, as well. The EC will pursue a European Economic Area by integrating with the European Free Trade Association. Then, a time will come when the Pan-American economic sphere and the European Economic Sphere will be integrated into one. Then, the plan to turn the entire world into a free trade zone will be realized.

The ROK, Japan, and Northeast and Southeast Asian countries will be more strongly united. Still, global free trade will emerge without distorting the current trade structure.

[Chang] How will the signing of the NAFTA affect the Uruguay Round?

[Yu] That is hard to tell. The EC has not reacted to the signing, and Japan expressed strong dissatisfaction. A settlement in the Uruguay Round of negotiations depends on cooperation from the EC and Japan.

[Chang] How will the signing affect our country, and how will we respond to this?

[Yu] In view of the fact that our market has expanded greatly, our exports to this area may expand. It is necessary for us to take short- and long-term countermeasures to deal with the adverse effects of this agreement.

In the short run, we must make diplomatic efforts in trade to ensure that the NAFTA does not serve as a barrier to outside countries. We must also lead business companies to increase direct investments in Mexico. In the long run, we must map out countermeasures for each industry to efficiently deal with the agreement and give priority to preserving our competitive edge by developing technology and high technology industries.

Survey in Mexico To Cope With NAFTA Planned

SK1608233292 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 15 Aug 92 p 1

[Text] The government has decided to dispatch a large-scale investment feasibility survey team to Mexico this fall to establish an industrial park to be used as a forward base for the United States, which is our main export market. The feasibility survey team will consist of government officials and business representatives.

The government has also decided to make efforts in trade diplomacy to strengthen the functions of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] Council, of which the ROK is a leading member, to effectively cope with the trend of bloc formations in the world economy that will result from the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA].

According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry on 14 August, the government has decided to hold a NAFTA ad hoc committee meeting at the World Trade Center in Seoul on 17 August (chairman: Yu Tuk-hwan, first assistant minister of trade and industry) to formulate specific measures.

To minimize the possibly negative effects of the NAFTA between the ROK and the United States, the government considers it necessary to further strengthen industrial and technological cooperation between the two countries. For this purpose, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is considering designating an industrial and technological information channel between the U.S. Department of Commerce and itself and pushing ahead with signing a business agreement between the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation and the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service [FCS] within the U.S. Department of Commerce.

As for the idea of founding an East Sea-rim economic body as suggested by some people to cope with the formation of world economic blocs, the government doubts its practicability. Therefore, the government is considering a plan to promote economic cooperation among the countries of Asia and the Pacific through the strengthening of the APEC functions.

As part of its medium- and long-term measures to cope with the signing of the NAFTA, the government is planning to have the Korea Industrial Economy and Technology Institute [KIET] and business associations make an analysis of the impact of the NAFTA by industry and to formulate measures to enhance competitiveness. The government is also planning to hold a meeting to explain the NAFTA so that our businesses may take effective measures to cope with it.

Bank of Korea To Open Office in Mexico 15 Sep

SK1708065592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0603 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—The Export-Import Bank of Korea will open a representative office in Mexico City on Sept. 15, the first for a Korean bank there, a bank spokesman said Monday [17 August].

The office is expected to play a crucial role for Korean companies, functioning as a nerve center and gathering and assessing economic information in Central America.

It will become particularly important with the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the spokesman said.

The bank will have 10 overseas offices with the new one.

Currently, 77 foreign banks, including 13 Japanese banks, have offices in Mexico City. Foreign banks are only entitled to open representative offices in Mexico rather than branch offices, the spokesman added.

Measures Reported To Cushion NAFTA Impact

SK1708100392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0913 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—The government has resolved to provide positive financial and taxational support to those industries advancing to the NAFTA (North America Free Trade Area) as a means of cushioning the impact the NAFTA agreement would have on the nation's export industries.

The measures to be taken will be mostly those related to expanded overseas financing and guaranteeing against investment risks for the industries moving to the NAFTA zone.

The government will also hasten efforts to conclude agreements on double taxation prevention and investment guarantee with Mexico which the government believes could be used as a roundabout base for Korea's exports to the U.S.

These policies were adopted at a meeting held at the Kwachon Government Office Monday [17 August] afternoon to discuss measures to cope with the NAFTA.

In another policy, the government decided to strive to restrain the NAFTA from becoming an exclusive economic bloc.

The government would see to it that Uruguay Round talks would be resolved at an early date as a device to counter the NAFTA while seeking to promote joint steps among non-NAFTA countries to cope with the new regional economic system.

To execute these and other policies toward the NAFTA effectively and systematically, the government has decided to form a NAFTA task force conference to be headed by the vice economic planning minister and to comprise officials from related government offices and business organizations.

Monday's meeting, chaired by Vice Economic Planning Minister Han Kap-su, was attended by senior officials from the foreign affairs, finance, trade-industry and some other related government offices.

ROK To Propose Supplementary Pacts at Talks

SK1708010692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0021 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—The government will propose to North Korea the adoption of supplementary agreements to the inter-Korean accord at the eighth prime ministers' meeting, scheduled for Pyongyang on Sept. 15, government sources said Monday [17 August].

Since the prime ministers of the South and the North met in Seoul in May, the two sides have failed in their efforts to work out supplementary agreements to the inter-Korean accord on reconciliation, nonaggression and exchanges and cooperation in a series of subcommittee meetings at the truce village of Panmunjom.

As has been agreed with the North, the South Korean Government hopes to put various joint committees into operation by adopting supplementary agreements at the eighth prime ministers' meeting, the sources said.

Accordingly, the South will urge the North to adopt the agreed portions of the proposed supplementary agreements first, leaving the rest for further discussion, the sources said.

They said it was practically impossible for the two sides to adopt a complete set of supplementary agreements at the eighth prime ministers' conference as there is a considerable gap between them with regard to, among other things, whether to include "private" media in a bid to end slanderous broadcasts against each other.

The two sides are also far apart on the question of whether government approval is necessary for any economic cooperation project, the sources said.

The sources said, however, the North is showing a positive attitude for the adoption of supplementary agreements and they predicted that the two Koreas will be able to pass at least partial agreements in Pyongyang.

Government To Send Feasibility Team to North

SK1708112792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1043 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—The government plans to send a feasibility survey team to North Korea this month to promote a joint-venture industrial estate project at Nampo as agreed on during Vice North Korean Premier Kim Tal-hyon's recent visit to the South.

A senior official at the Economic Planning Board said Monday [17 August], "despite the failure to materialize a planned exchange of hometown visitors, the agreement reached between the South and the North during Kim Tal-hyon's visit to Seoul remains effective."

The official said the government will hold a meeting of relevant government ministers some time this week to discuss details of the planned dispatch.

During Kim Tal-hyon's visit to Seoul last month, deputy prime minister Choe Kak-kyu agreed with Kim to send a South Korean feasibility team to the North in August.

"However, Deputy Prime Minister Choe's planned visit to the North can be scheduled only after the North's official invitation reached the South," said the official, adding that it seems Choe's visit to the North, originally slated for next month, could be delayed a little.

Businessmen in Iraq Urged To Take Precautions

SK1708100892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0905 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry instructed South Korean businessmen in Iraq to take precautions Monday [17 August] because of reports that the United States may launch an air strike against Baghdad.

The embassy in Jordan was also told to prepare to evacuate the 21 South Koreans in Iraq, 15 from Hyundai, five from Samsung and one diplomat, ministry officials said.

The ministry instructed the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C., to check into the press reports of an imminent strike.

The embassy in Jordan already has a four-step plan to evacuate the 21 people and has vehicles and fuel ready to take them out of Iraq to Jordan, officials said.

"They are not in danger, and we are ready with all of our precautionary measures," an official here said.

Yeltsin Sends Personal Letter to No Tae-u

SK1708034492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0305 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a personal letter to No Tae-u on 14 August to offer congratulations on Liberation Day. In the letter, he says: Let us eternally forget the sad past and promote mutual understanding and cooperation between Russia and the ROK.

President Yeltsin also says: Russia has made efforts to ensure that durable peace will prevail on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity and to prevent the emergence of weapons of mass destruction in this region. Russia is pleased to see that the situation is developing toward this end.

President Yeltsin also says that he hopes the ROK will enter the 21st century as a unified country and that his visit to the ROK and his meeting with President No Tae-u will serve as an opportunity to hasten the fulfillment of this goal and further strengthen bilateral relations as good neighbors and intimate and reliable partners.

'20,000 Activist Students' Participate in Rallies

SK1608041392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Aug 92 p 3

[Text] About 20,000 activist students, joined by dissidents, pushed ahead with "Pan-national Conference" programs yesterday on the campus of Seoul National University [SNU] in defiance of a police ban.

The students were from Chondaehyop or the National Council of Student Representatives and the dissidents were from Kukmin Yonhap, or the National Alliance for Democracy and Unification.

They staged a variety of programs including debates on how to maintain the peaceful coexistence of the two Koreas and to achieve national reunification.

Rally organizers opened their own Seoul conference on the campus after they were blocked from reaching the truce village of Panmunjom, where southern representatives were scheduled to meet their northern counterparts with the participation of some Koreans from abroad to discuss matters on national reunification.

In the evening, Chondaehyop declared the inauguration of the Pan-national Youth and Students League (Pomchonghangnyon in Korean acronym) in solidarity with a North Korean student organization via a liaison office.

Pak Song-hi, a Kyonghui University senior, and Song Yong-song, a Konkuk University junior, who have been staying in Berlin since their illegal trips to Pyongyang, are in charge of the liaison office to connect South and North Korean students.

The rally site was shifted Friday [14 August] as the police blocked roads leading to Chungang University campus, where the meeting was originally set to take place. Last Monday, police made a pre-dawn raid on the campus to arrest 75 student leaders, including Chondaehyop chairman Tae Che-chun, who also leads the SNU student council.

Students turned to the SNU campus, braving the police arrest warnings and assembling there by subways beginning Friday afternoon.

In the process, some 500 students stormed into the yard of a police unit near the campus and hurled firebombs at police vehicles there, destroying a pepper fog vehicle and a police bus. They also carried away some tear-gas launchers.

Chondaehyop organizers of the meeting said they would carry through the remaining programs of the "Pan-national Conference" through tomorrow as planned on the campus.

In the meantime, about 5,000 riot police were deployed around the campus in preparation to break in on the ralliers.

If police charge into the campus again like last Monday, it will cause massive clashes between ralliers and riot troopers.

Ends Without Clashes With Police

SK1608102892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0955 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—Activist collegians and dissidents completed their official events for '92 pan-national congress without severe clashes with the riot police by holding a last meeting at the Academic Road here Sunday [16 August].

An estimated 10,000 university students and dissident leaders gathered around the road after staging sporadic street demonstrations at the Tongdaemun Gate, the Youngdeungpo crossroad and near the entrance of Ehwa Womans University.

They started to get together at the Academic Road in threes and fours at 5 P.M. to finish the official timetable for the annual pan-national meeting outlawed by the government.

"The unification movement should not be possessed exclusively by a certain force," they said, noting that it should be a pan-national movement in which 70 million compatriots in South and North Korea should participate voluntarily.

Ralliers demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces stationed in South Korea and the abolition of the National Security Law.

The organizers had earlier planned to hold a joint rally with North Korean delegates at the border village of Panmunjom Saturday afternoon, but decided to conduct a separate meeting as they were banned access to the truce village.

North Korean delegates held their meeting in the northern sector of Panmunjom, according to the North Korean Central News Agency.

* Chinese Communists Backed Kim Il-song's Rise

922C0197A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 24 Jun 92 p 5

[Text] During the last period of the Second World War when Japan was on the verge of defeat, the leaders of the Manchuria partisan group of the Chinese Communist Party had already decided to let Kim Il-song, who was under their command, take charge of the Korean operations and had him return to Korea, said Tokyo University professor Wada Haruki, an expert in the subject matter, in his book published recently.

In his book, *Kim Il-song and the Anti-Japanese Struggle*, professor Wada referred to the Chinese data to make it clear. Thus, he objected to the theory that Stalin helped Kim Il-song become the North Korean leader.

In his telephone interview with TONG-A ILBO on the night of 23 June, Professor Wada said, "Some people say that it was Stalin who made Kim Il-song the North Korean leader; but my research shows that the operaton was led by the Northeast (Manchuria) Group of the Chinese Communist Party."

According to his book, Commander-in-Chief of the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allies of China Chu Po-chung and Korean secretariat of the Executive Committee of the Northeast Party (which was a political arm of the Anti-Japanese Allies) of the Chinese Communist Party Choe Yong-kon called a general meeting of the Northeast Party Committee at the end of July 1945 when Japan's defeat became certain. At this meeting, the book says, they discussed the future of the Anti-Japanese Allies and appointed Deputy Secretariat of the Executive Committee Kim Il-song as chief of the 'Korea Operations Group' of the Chinese Communist Party.

According to the *Five Years in the Northern Field of Russia*, which was written by Chu's close follower Paeng Si-ro, a Chinese, the Korea Operations Group was made up of Kim Il-song, Choe Yong-kon, Kim Chaek, An Kil, So Chol, Pak Tok-san (Kim Il), and Choe Hyon. The group's leader was Kim Il-song, and secretariat of the Party Committee was Choe Yong-kon.

Referring to such records, professor Wada pointed out the following in his book: "Formally, the Korea Operations Group was always an organ of the Chinese Communist Party." At the end of July 1945, the communication between the Chu group and the center of the Chinese Communist Party was cut off; but in September 1945 in Simyang, Chu and Choe Yong-kon reported their activities and accomplishments—such as establishing the Korea Opertations Group—to Paeng Chin, then-secretariat of the newly created Northeast Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party, said professor Wada. Since Paeng presumably reported this to the center of the party in Yonan, Yonan (i.e., Mao Tse-tung), too, would have known about the structure of the Korea Operations Group let by Kim Il-song, said Professor Wada in his book.

Burma

PRC Said Planning To Build Naval Recon Center

BK1508123292 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Report from Delhi correspondent Subhaj Chakrabhati]

[Text] It has been learned that high-level meetings are taking place between India and Burma. According to some reports coming from India, there have been some misunderstandings in the past between the two countries and the meetings are being held to clear them up.

A report from Delhi by Subhaj Chakrabhati states that U Aye, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burma, and Mr. J.N. Dixit, Indian foreign secretary, concluded their talks on Thursday in Delhi. It is reported that the most significant goal of the talks was (?to clear up) speculation and criticism, that is, regarding Burma's perception of India as a military threat. It is believed that the talks were aimed more at handling the insipid state of the bilateral relations rather than achieving significant change in that regard.

This is the first high-level meeting between the two countries since the former prime minster, Rajiv Gandhi, visited Burma in 1988.

The Burmese delegation was told by the Indian side that India would continue to support the development of democracy in Burma, especially the demand for the release of all political prisoners. Mr. Dixit assured U Aye that India has no ulterior motive toward Burma and that India remains interested in maintaining normal relations.

India also urged Burma to cooperate in resolving bilateral issues. According to a reliable Indian source on Burmese issues, the Indian side made no secret about its attitude toward Burma's attempt to make India look petty and its knowledge of Burma's (?justification) in providing construction materials to China for building a naval reconnaisance facility in a sensitive area near the Indian border.

The dispatch further states that Indian news circles are accusing Burma of using the Indian threat as a pretext to buy large amounts weapons from China. While the Burmese military junta is facing pressure from India and some other Southeast Asian nations to restore democracy in Burma, it is trying to improve its relationship with countries like China and Thailand. The report also states that Burma is working for the interests of the Thai military through its logging and precious gems deals. At present, China stands a good chance of benefitting greatly from Burma.

India is claiming that China is considering the possibility of building a reconnaisance facility on an island in Burmese territorial waters. The facility would enable China to have easy access to and movement in the Bay of Bengal. India also believes that if China is allowed to use a reconnaisance facility in the Bay of Bengal, it will be able to apply pressure on the Southeast Asian region from the west and play a major role in the region.

The report states that India views such a move by China at this point in the peace process in Cambodia as its plan designed to restore Chinese influence in the region.

SLORC Announces Release of 14 More Detainees

BK1408143092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Nai Khin Maung—who had served as a member of the Central Executive Committe of the Mon National League for Democracy, against whom action had been taken in October 1991, and who had been serving his sentence—has been released from Insein Central Prison today in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]. Similarly, 13 other males, against whom action was taken under the existing laws and who were serving their sentences, were released from jails in Mandalay, Tharawaddy, and Toungoon in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the SLORC.

Responsible officials went to the respective prisons and explained Declaration No. 11/92 of the SLORC issued on 24 April and the order of the Home Affairs Ministry regarding the reduction of jail terms imposed. Those to be released were then permitted to meet with their families and were later released.

18 Insurgents Surrender 12-21 Jul

BK1508145492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Terrorist insurgents from various terrorist insurgent organizations, who have come to realize that their armed struggle and destructive activities do not benefit either themselves, the country, or the people have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering along with assorted arms and ammunition at various military camps.

It has been learned that 18 terrorist insurgents gave up their armed struggle and surrendered between 12 and 21 July 1992. They were warmly welcomed by responsible personnel at various military camps.

Delegation Leaves for Thailand Border Talks

BK1408135692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] A Burmese delegation led by Major General Maung Aye, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and commander of the Eastern Military Command, left this morning in a special Air Force plane for Thailand to attend a special meeting of the Myanmar [Burma]-Thailand Border Regional Committee. The delegation is composed of Maj. Gen. Soe Myint, member of the SLORC and commander of the Southeast Military Command, and nine other members.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the SLORC; Maj. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of the SLORC; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, Air Force commander in chief; Commander Brig. Gen. Myo Nyunt, religious affairs minister; U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister; Brigadier General Ket Sein, commander of the 77th Light Infantry Division; Wirasak Futrakun, Thai ambassador to Myanmar; and responsible officials from the Ministry of Defense and the Foreign Ministry.

Exiled Former Minister Dies in Thailand

BK1508115092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Aug 92 p 6

[Excerpt] General Thwin, former trade development and supplies minister of Burma in the U Nu government, died in exile in Thailand on Thursday. He was 70.

At the time of his death he was vice-president of the Democratic Alliance of Burma, the umbrella organisation of anti-Rangoon military government groups, formed in Thailand in the late 1980s. Gen Thwin's political career began in 1952 when he was elected a member of Parliament from Kyaikmaraw (Moulmein province). He belonged to the AFPFL (Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League) party led by U Nu, the last democratically elected premier of Burma.

A former student leader, U Thwin was involved in the movement for the betterment of the education system under British rule as early as 1938. The former Rangoon University graduate received his early education at the American Baptist and Methodist English High schools in Rangoon.

General Thwin, a close associate of Burmese independence architect General Aung San, also served as deputy defence minister in 1957. He had been trained by both the Japanese and British armies before and during World War Two. He was awarded the First Class Order of Burmese Independence.

He fled to Thailand in 1969 after being imprisoned for six years by the Ne Win military government which took over the country in a coup on March 2, 1962. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir—'Apprehension' Over NAFTA Formation

BK1408134892 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has expressed the hope that the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, among the United States, Canada, and Mexico will not adversely affect Malaysian trade. Expressing apprehension, the prime minister said Malaysia would strive to penetrate that market and step up trade—particularly with the United States and Mexico.

He was asked to comment on a report that agreement had been reached between the three countries to establish NAFTA. The agreement, among other things, provides for the three countries to enjoy reduction of import tariffs, elimination of customs inspections, and reduction of bureaucratic procedures. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir told reporters this after a meeting with the people of FELDA [Federal Land Development Authority] Bukit Tangga, near Bukit Kayu Hitam, Kedah.

Malaysia has expressed apprehension over NAFTA because it will restrict the entry of goods from outside North America. On the East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, proposed by Malaysia, the prime minister said the government has not relented in its efforts to establish the regional economic grouping. If Malaysia does not have the support of Japan and South Korea, the backing of other countries will suffice.

Minister To Propose NAFTA Criteria

BK1508134892 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Malaysia will propose to the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, members to adopt certain criteria that will not burden other countries. The minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, said they should be nonprotectionist. She was speaking to reporters closing a three-day Wanita UMNO [Women's Wing of the United Malays National Organization] work camp in Kota Baru, which was attended by 400 people from throughout the country.

The NAFTA members—the United States, Canada, and Mexico—should also abide by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT. She said the grouping might initially lead to special treatment for clothes and textiles produced in member countries and this would affect the exports of countries like Malaysia. She added, for example, Japanese investors might be attracted to shift their operations to Mexico to take advantage of the U.S. market.

Japanese Businessmen Reportedly Support EAEC

BK1508090492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0348 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 15 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Many Japanese businessmen are keen on the setting up of the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) although the Japanese Government did not seem to support it, said Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed here Friday.

"However, we hope that later they will support it because Japan is under tremendous pressure from the United States... Their minivan is also not allowed into the U.S.," he said. "In such a situation, they will be forced to give priority to the interests of countries in the East," he said.

He was asked to comment on a report that agreement had been reached between the United States, Canada, and Mexico to establish the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), as was announced in Washington on Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Mahathir Ready To Supply Military Aid to Bosnia

BK1508091092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0654 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug. 15 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Saturday that Malaysia was prepared to join an Islamic military force to help Bosnia-Hercegovina if Islamic countries agreed to send troops under such an arrangement.

"If the Islamic nations agree (to send forces), we will have to go along with them," he said when commenting on an Iranian proposal for Islamic countries to provide military assistance to Bosnian Muslims suffering from atrocities by Serbs in the former Yugoslav state. Iran has proposed that the foreign and defence ministers of all member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meet to discuss the matter.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia was willing to look at the proposal to determine whether it could be implemented.

"Usually, we send our troops to other countries as part of the United Nations peacekeeping forces," he told reporters here.He said he felt that Islamic countries should consider the matter (of sending troops).

"If this can help them (Bosnian Muslims), we must consider it," he said.

Dr. Mahathir expressed disappointment with the United Nations Security Council which Thursday approved military force as a last resort to ensure relief aid for Bosnia-Hercegovina.

"By that time, perhaps many Bosnians will have been killed. Maybe, in the end, there will be no more Muslims in Bosnia," he said.

The prime minister said Malaysia would consider establishing diplomatic relations with the states which were now independent of the former Yugoslavia, such as Crotia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. Malaysia severed diplomatic relations with Belgrade on Wednesday in protest against its role in fuelling the atrocities by Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Commentary Hails New Trade Accord With SRV

BK1308090692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia-Vietnam trade ties have entered yet another phase with the signing of a new agreement between the two countries. It provides for the most-favored-nation treatment in terms of customs duties and charges. This privilege relates to various goods imported or exported between Malaysia and Vietnam. There is also a provision in the agreement which allows the two countries to set up a joint committee not only to enhance trade but also to solve any areas of dispute that may exist in bilateral trade issues. The move should be viewed as another joint measure by the two neighboring countries that belong to the Southeast Asian region to enhance closer trade relations for mutual benefit. Though trade between the two countries is still small, it is growing with bilateral trade registering 123.6 million ringgit in the first 4 months of this year compared with 62.8 million ringgit in the corresponding period in 1991.

Prior to the latest agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, there had been three others between the two countries, namely an economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement; a pact on posts and telecommunications cooperation; and a memorandum of understanding on technical assistance for the Vietnamese rubber industry. All these agreements, without doubt, have brought Malaysia and Vietnam closer together. It is reflected in the words of Vietnam's minister of trade and tourism, Mr. Le Van Triet, who signed on behalf of his country that the establishment of closer relationship has resulted in a significant increase in the exchange of visits by Malaysians and Vietnamese in both the public and private sectors.

Vietnam is in an important stage of its reconstruction efforts. Its economic reforms under its present leadership are already producing beneficial results. Malaysia and its ASEAN partners prefer to play a useful role in Vietnam's current and future development. (?Their) present moves in this direction are encouraging. Much more can be done through regular contacts and dialogue as well as the exchange of experience and expertise [words indistinct] the countries of Southeast Asia can learn and benefit from each other. The holding of trade fairs and exhibitions can lay the framework for the diversification of products that are traded among the countries of the region. Whatever ideological differences they may exist among Southeast Asian countries, the possibilities of cooperation in trade are wide open. Above all, there has to be regional security and political stability which is the main objective in an ASEAN concept of a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality or ZOPFAN. The current stage of development in Malaysia-Vietnam relations can be a catalyst in this process.

Opposition Party Offers Asylum to Thai Muslims

BK1608092092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0829 GMT 16 Aug 92

[By P. Parameswaran]

[Text] Kota Baru, Malaysia, Aug 16 (AFP)—Malaysia's fundamentalist opposition Parti Islam (PAS) ruling north-eastern Kelantan on Sunday offered refuge to Thai Muslim separatists seeking to avoid harassment in their country.

"PAS has to offer this help because our Muslim brothers are being discriminated against in all aspects of life in southern Thailand," PAS Deputy President Hadi told

AFP here in Kelantan's state capital. Hadi said he would leave it to Kuala Lumpur to decide whether the move would hurt diplomatic ties.

Hadi called on Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's federal government, which controls immigration policy, to relax procedures so that the separatists can use Kelantan, which shares a border with southern Thailand, as a sanctuary.

Thai authorities have blamed Muslim separatists for Thursday's bomb blast that killed three people and wounded more than 70 in southern Thailand. Thai police reportedly said they had found a statement at the site of the blast with the seal of the separatist Phatthani United Liberation Organisation (PULO) demanding independence for Thailand's four southernmost provinces.

Hadi said he was unsure whether the rebels were already in Kelantan, adding that the state was prepared to offer them humanitarian assistance and jobs.

"There is adequate precedence for the federal government to allow our Muslim brothers in Thailand to seek shelter in Kelantan," Hadi said.

Hadi said that the abortive 1962 revolt in tiny, oil-rich Brunei had led Malaysia to offer exile to many leaders of the outlawed Brunei People's Party. Local historians say many Kelantanese leaders still have blood relations with the Malays of Phatthani. Kelantan and six other provinces in southern Thailand including Phatthani were in the sphere of influence of Siam, Thailand's former name, during the reign of King Rama I in the 18th century. They said Britain took control of Kelantan from Thailand in 1909 when the Anglo-Siamese treaty was signed.

Hadi also urged the federal government to grant political refugee status to a group of 43 Indonesians from Aceh province in northern Sumatera still holed up at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office in Kuala Lumpur.

The group is said to be part of more than 400 Acehnese who fled to Malaysia last year allegedly to escape Indonesian troops out to stifle Aceh Merdeka, a movement campaigning to free Aceh from Jakarta's rule. Hadi claimed that many of the Acehnese who returned on assurances from Indonesian authorities that they would not be persecuted were missing. Mahathir recently said that Kuala Lumpur regarded the Acehnese as illegal immigrants but that they would not be forcibly repatriated.

PAS leaders, meeting here for their annual congress, said the party would act as the beacon of hope for the estimated 200 million Muslims in the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia are ASEAN members along with Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei.

"Any efforts to strengthen ASEAN should not be at the expense of Muslims," PAS president Fadzil Noor said.

Singapore

Trade Ministry Conditionally Endorses NAFTA

BK1408142492 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Singapore says it endorses regional trade liberalization under NAFTA provided the agreement is consistent with GATT and does not create a protectionist trading bloc. NAFTA or the North American Free Trade Agreement, was finalized among the U.S., Canada and Mexico on Wednesday. It seeks to end trade barriers among the three countries and form the world's largest trading bloc with 360 million consumers.

The Trade and Industry Ministry says NAFTA reflects a global trend towards greater regional economic integration. It adds that Singapore should not be (?seriously) affected so long as it continues to strengthen our competitiveness.

PRC Vice Premier Arrives for Official Visit

BK1408121092 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr. Yao Yilin, is in Singapore on an official visit. His four-day stay is at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Trade and Industry Minister Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong who received him at Changi Airport. Mr. Yao met Gen. Lee this afternoon.

The Chinese delegation will also attend a dinner to be hosted by Gen. Lee this evening. Tomorrow, Mr. Yao will call on President Wee Kim Wee and the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong. Mr. Yao will also call on the senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. During his visit, Mr. Yao will visit [words indistinct] in Jurong.

Says Economic Ties 'Very Good'

BK1608114092 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] The Chinese minister for foreign economic relations and trade, Mr. Li Lanqing, says economic relations between Singapore and China are very good. He says these relations will be deepened in the future and says economic cooperation is easy because the traditional values of both countries are similar. He was speaking at a news conference today. Mr. Li is part of a delegation led by the Chinese vice premier, Mr. Yao Yilin. Touching on the Shenzhen bourse riot, Mr. Li said the Chinese Government does not discourage and will continue to expand its stock market trade. Mr. Yao arrived in Singapore on Friday for a four-day official visit.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Byelarus

BK1408125692 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Aug 92 p 26

[Text] Singapore and the Republic of Byelarus have agreed to establish diplomatic relations with effect from Wednesday [date not further specified].

A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that this was to strengthen and develop friendly ties between the two countries.

Formerly the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, it declared its independence in September last year and used the native name of Byelarus.

It has a population of 10 million and is located on Russia's western border. It joined 10 other former Soviet republics to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in December last year.

Defense Chief Discusses Sea Piracy Data

BK1408095692 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Aug 92 p 23

[Text] The probability of ships being robbed in the Straits of Singapore is not high, considering the number of ships plying through it daily.

Chief of the Defence Force Major General Ng Jui Ping also felt that the shipping community tended to look at the number of piracy cases in the region as a whole rather than as a relative figure.

Describing sea piracy as a matter of concern, he noted that there were 200 sea robberies, compared with 90 the year before.

All the robberies took place in regional waters.

Said Maj. Gen. Ng: "If we set these numbers against more than 200 ships which pass through the Straits of Singapore each day, one may that the probability of actually being robbed in the Straits of Singapore is not high."

But the shipping community did not view it on these terms.

He noted: "They look at the region as a whole and we have therefore to tackle it on that basis. The idea is to nip the problem in the bud and not let it grow and act on a regional rather than isolated basis."

But tackling the problem will take time, he cautioned.

The shipping community must know that it is quite safe to ply the Phillips Channel [and] that sea robberies are not a threat in this vicinity.

On tackling the problem, he said: "The Indonesians have made a good start by arresting about 30 sea robbers in the last few weeks.

The coordinated sea patrols, which will start later this month, will also help to tackle the problem significantly, he added.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Denies Pol Pot Having Any Role

BK1708010092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Aug 92

[14 August "confirmation by the spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea regarding Mr. Pol Pot"—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. There have been untruthful reports about Mr. Pol Pot for a period of time in the past. No one knows the purposes of these reports.

2. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea would like to confirm that Mr. Pol Pot has been retired since he was 60 years old. Since then, Mr. Pol Pot has stopped holding any active posts or engaging in daily duties. [Dated] 14 August 1992
[Signed] The spokesman of the party of Democratic Kampuchea

Pol Pot's, Khmer Rouge Tactics Toward UN Viewed

BK1708020392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Aug 92 p 5

[By Richard S. Erlich]

[Text] Phnom Penh mass murderer Pol Pot's refusal to bow to the United Nations' peace plan has caused officials to fear he may have tricked them into sending thousands of foreign troops into Cambodia only to doublecross the UN and force their withdrawal, creating panic, chaos and the loss of millions of dollars.

For the past several months, UN officials boasted their controversial peace plan would steamroll Pol Pot's 20,000 reluctant Khmer Rouge guerrillas into surrendering and participating in elections next year, despite his responsibility for having killed more than one million Cambodians during his 1975 to 1979 regime.

Pol Pot's bloodied fingers once again hold the keys to this destitute nation's future.

The head of the UN in Cambodia, Japan's Yasushi Akashi, and the head of the UN's military forces in Cambodia, Australia's Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, repeatedly refused to be swayed by international warnings that Pol Pot would resist the presence of the foreign troops which have now arrived from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, France, India, Ghana, Bulgaria, Tunisia and a slew of other nations.

Akashi, Sanderson and others insisted UN pressure could force Pol Pot to heel, and thus bring peace to this Southeast Asian nation devastated by more than 20 years of war.

Asked why the UN did not exclude Pol Pot from the elections rather than include him and thus be vulnerable to his whims, Sanderson replied, "Then there would always be that grievance out there that the election didn't include everyone."

Akashi, sitting hunched next to Sanderson aboard a UN inspection flight over northwestern Cambodia, added, "We have many contingency plans" to deal with Pol Pot' stubbornness.

But now that the UN has spent millions of dollars deploying their forces and civilian administration and the capital Phnom Penh in the midst of a dizzying, corruption-riddled inflationary construction boom—Pol Pot has pulled the carpet out from under the UN by refusing to disarm.

The UN now appears stuck with three choices—all of them ugly.

They can go home after wasting millions of dollars to get here. Such a withdrawal would create panic among Cambodian and foreign investors who have sunk fortunes into real estate speculation and contracts to supply the UN and rebuild the nation. Cambodia's shoestring economy would collapse.

Pol Pot would benefit enormously—which may have been his plan from the start.

Or the UN can hold the election without Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge. Balloting amid Cambodia's civil war would mean truncated polls and the UN possibly drawn into a shooting match against Khmer Rouge in scattered areas of the country, probably prompting many of the participating nations armies to pull out.

The third choice is the current route being taken by the UN which has referred the matter to the Security Council in New York while trying to coax Pol Pot into changing his mind. No one knows what the secretive leader might ultimately decide, but time is not on the UN's side.

Pol Pot's rejection comes at a bad moment for the UN because it is being drained of scarce funding by its bold efforts in Yugoslavia. UN forces cannot afford to sit idle in Cambodia's jungles much longer and are already suffering from a lack of sufficient food, fuel and other logistics support.

More than 350,000 Cambodian refugees languishing in camps in Thailand meanwhile cannot return here because land which the UN promised them is already occupied by others, and the UN has also failed to remove the millions of rebel-laid landmines strewn across vast areas of the countryside.

If Pol Pot refuses to surrender his weapons, open his territory to inspection and put forth his Khmer Rouge as civilian candidates in Cambodia's May 1993 election, the UN will suffer the failure of the biggest and most expensive peace mission in its history.

A senior Cambodian editor who works for the government's official media and sifts propaganda, foreign reports and other information, said the United States and other UN participants were either deceiving others or deceiving themselves into believing Pol Pot would agree to contest the election.

"Pol Pot and the other Khmer Rouge leaders know they cannot win the election and that they cannot win very many seats because nobody will vote for them," he said.

"They prefer to continue the war because they have had very good success being guerrilla fighters against Lon Nol (in the 1970s), against Vietnam (in the 1980s) and against the Cambodian government (in the 1990s). As guerrillas, they could not be beaten.

"The only reason they joined with the UN in Paris and agreed was because the UN treaty said that after everyone signs, then no faction can attack another faction. So Pol Pot signed so that he cold not be attacked by anybody.

"Then his area was safe and he moved in his people and now has a safe area to collect the gems from the mines. Pol Pot has become stronger because of the UN treaty," the Cambodian editor added.

An American contractor selling logistics supplies to the UN military and civilians agreed: "How long is the UN going to be here? What's this going to cost? No one wants to talk about this. The refugees have not returned, the cantonments (for disarmed rebels) have not been constructed. You've got IJ—troops without logistics.

"What've you got? Enough food for the UN? Nope. Enough vehicles? Nope. Enough fuel? Nope. It's getting worse, and not all the UN people are even here yet.

"The operational readiness of the UN troops here is very, very low. They can't deploy their troops. So they've tried to slow them coming into the country.

"Cambodia has nothing. There is no electricity grid. There are no roads. There are no interpreters. There's no infrastructure," the US contractor added.

"You think the Khmer Rouge are stupid? They can live off the locals. You think these candyassed UN troops are able to? "Geopolitically, the Americans can't afford for this to fail. The French say, 'We're going to shoot the Khmer Rouge if we have to.' That's horseshit. What are supposedly 20,000 UN troops going to do when (Pol Pot) the pariah of the world says, 'We're not going to agree until we get what we want."

A senior French aid worker based in Cambodia for the past four years and who has travelled extensively in almost every province said: "The Cambodians I talk to are very disappointed with the UN and very discouraged.

"They say, 'Why can't the UN and the West be more firm against the Khmer Rouge?' Now you have this very embarrassing and very bad situation where the UN and the West is having to be nice to the Khmer Rouge, not doing anything to upset them and not criticising them too harshly.

"The West is paying the price for the past 10 years of the West's policies towards helping to build up the Khmer Rouge, because America wanted them strong as a way to fight against Vietnam, and America did not want to anger China because America needed China against the Soviet Union.

"But now the Cold War is over and the West is stuck with this Khmer Rouge that it helped build up and no one knows how to control them," she added.

"You can't go in and have the West fight them, it is not like Iraq where you can just bomb all the targets where they are. You can't bomb the jungles.

"And Akashi is trying to tempt them with money and development aid, but that won't work because the Khmer Rouge aren't interested in the money, they don't need it, they have more than enough from their gem mines.

"But the UN will hold the election with or without the Khmer Rouge so the West can declare they have solved the problem of Cambodia. But the Cambodians think that anyway the war will go on for many years."

One senior UN official admitted that Pol Pot had "a point" in complaining that Vietnamese installed, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's one-party regime still controls too much of the government.

The UN official said, "The Paris agreement allows for the 'existing administrative structure' to continue, though this is really a euphemism for the government which was to be controlled by the UN.

"Yes, the UN could bring in as many experienced foreign civil servants to run Cambodia as would be needed—what would it take, 20,000 trained foreigners?—and teach them all Khmer (language) and yes it would cost millions of dollars."

Because that it is not affordable, the UN—calling itself the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)—rules alongside Hun Sen's existing civil service.

Khmer Rouge on Peace Accord Implementation

BK1608030692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Unattributed commentary: "The 23 October 1991 Paris Agreement Cannot Be Implemented Because of Whom?]

[Text] Since the day it was signed, the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement has not yet been concretely implemented. There are two opposing forces in the implementation of this agreement: the force assisting and striving to implement the agreement, and the force opposing and altering the implementation of the agreement.

The general public is following the implementation of the accord to find out who is hindering the implementation of the Paris agreement. Is it because of the Cambodian people—the victim—or because of the Vietnamese aggressors, puppets, and bad elements? The situation of the implementation of the agreement over the past nine months has clearly shown who is striving to implement the agreement and who is creating obstacles and hindering the implementation of the agreement.

1. The Cambodian nation and people very much want peace as victims of Vietnam's act of aggression for 14 years. The Cambodian nation and people want UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the Supreme National Council [SNC] to cooperate in ensuring that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia.

It was in this spirit that immediately after the agreement was reached, the Cambodian nation and people welcomed it; provided full assistance and support; and implemented this agreement correctly, meticulously, and without bias on every point, particularly on the points dealing with the control of Vietnamese aggressor forces and the role of the SNC.

2. The Vietnamese aggressors, Vietnam's puppets, and some bad elements have, right from the start, been opposing the agreement. Before the agreement, they opposed it; after the agreement, they oppose the accord's implementation. Now Vietnam, its puppets, and bad elements are cooperating to divert the agreement; cover up the Vietnamese aggressors; avoid dealing with Vietnam's act of aggression; oppose the control of the Vietnamese aggressors; and make efforts to control only Cambodians, particularly Democratic Kampuchea.

The Cambodian nation and people absolutely cannot accept this behavior because it is completely against the agreement. The Cambodian people know what is right and what is wrong and who is implementing the agreement. They know who the bad guys are who alter the agreement and grossly implement the accord with the aim of maintaining the puppet regime, traitor to the nation, and use it as a shield to cover up Vietnamese aggressor forces to enable the latter to continue committing aggression against and occupying Cambodia.

This is the goal of the Vietnamese aggressors, Vietnam's puppets, and bad elements. This is why the agreement still cannot be implemented after nine months. UNTAC has been stationed in Cambodia for several months and has not controlled the Vietnamese aggressors. The puppet regime, traitor to the nation, is still in power; the SNC still has no power.

This situation shows people clearly that the Vietnamese aggressors, puppets and traitors to the nation, and bad elements are the ones diverting the agreement, creating obstacles, and hindering the correct implementation of the Paris agreement in accordance with the accord's real essence. These people have colluded to maintain Vietnam's puppet regime and Vietnamese aggressor forces so that they can continue committing aggression against and occupying Cambodia.

The Cambodian nation and people will not remain idle and let these people alter the accord and implement it any way they want, because this affects the survival of the entire Cambodian nation and people. The Cambodian nation and people are determined to unite and continue the implementation of the Paris agreement until the Vietnamese aggressors, Vietnam's puppets, and bad elements agree to implement the accord correctly and without bias on every clause, particularly the two key points which must be implemented first. These are:

1. Control and ensure that Vietnam withdraw all its aggressor forces from Cambodia and that these forces do not return;
2. The SNC should have real power to administer and decide all aspects of state affairs as a legitimate and the sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period. There should no longer be any state authority by the Vietnamese aggressors.

Khmer Rouge To Boycott Election If No Guarantee

BK1508091592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] A reliable source on Thursday said the Khmer Rouge has specified that it will not take part in the general election as long as there are no genuine guarantees of a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia. This source reported, however, that there is nothing to indicate that the Khmer Rouge will not abide by the election results if it did not take part in the election.

The general, free, and fair election in Cambodia, to be organized by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], is expected to take place in May 1993. The Paris peace agreement, signed on 23 October 1991, calls on all Cambodian parties and its 18 signatory countries to abide by the results of the general, free, and fair election supervised by UNTAC.

The Khmer Rouge, however, has categorically rejected the draft election law adopted at the latest meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] on 5 August in Siem Reap Province. The election law submitted by UNTAC to the SNC for consideration states that anyone born of a Cambodian father or mother or of parents born in Cambodia are eligible to vote.

The source reported that the Khmer Rouge said this law would open the door for the Vietnam-installed regime to return to power in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge side has instead put forward a formula proposing that all Cambodians aged 18 and over, or whose parents are Cambodian before January 1979, as being eligible voters. The source also said the Khmer Rouge stressed it will take part in all national reconciliation projects, including the general election, if various conditions improve.

Deputy Minister Talks to Demobilized Staff

BK1708072092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Summary] "On the morning of 16 August at the Army museum, the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Army [CPA] organized a ceremony to allow 485 officiers and men from units under its command to temporarily return to civilian life under the chairmanship of His Excellency General Ke Kimyan, standing member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, first deputy defense minister, and chief of the CPA's General Political Department; and Colonel (I.D. Sako), military representative of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]."

Also attending the occasion were officers from the General Political Department and UNTAC military representatives. Colonel Dam Dararit, office chief of the General Political Department, briefly reported on the organizational structures, the number of troops, and their weaponry. He says: "The total number of staff of the General Political Department is 676, including 374 officers and 305 men; their combined weaponry consists of 551 assorted guns and 17,438 rounds of assorted ammunition. The number of troops allowed to temporarily return to civilian life is 485, including 211 officers and 274 noncommissioned officers and men; 180 assorted weapons have been put under UNTAC control. The number of staff retained by units under the General Political Department is 194, including 162 officers and 32 noncommissioned officers and men; 405 assorted weapons and ammunition have been kept by the General Political Department."

Speaking on the occasion, General Ke Kimyan talks about the efforts of the CPA and its cooperation with UNTAC to implement the peace agreement and says: "We pledge to UNTAC representatives that we will firmly adhere to the unswerving stance of continuing to implement the agreement's second phase with utmost sincerity for national reconciliation and genuine peace in Cambodia." He also says: "The CPA's General Political Department firmly belives that local party and people's committees and people will continue the tradition of providing assistance to officers and men who have been allowed to temporarily return to civilian life, creating conditions for the latter to carry out production and have an ordinary life, and uniting to achieve the tasks of building and defending social and national gains to prevent the genocidal regime's return."

UNTAC Chief To Spend 10 Days in China, Japan

BK1508103092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, Aug 15 (AFP)—The head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, is due to leave Sunday for a 10-day trip to China and Japan, a U.N. spokesman said. Akashi is due to arrive in Shanghai on Tuesday for a disarmament conference, then travel to Beijing for two days of meetings with Chinese officials.

He is likely to meet Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin, who recently met with Khmer Rouge leaders to urge them to disarm in compliance with the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

"It is always necessary to have the cooperation of the Chinese side. Still they are very good friends of the Khmer Rouge," an Asian diplomat said. [passage omitted]

Akashi is due to return to Phnom Penh on August 26, two days after the next scheduled SNC meeting on August 24. His deputy Behruz Sadry will chair the meeting along with Prince Sihanouk.

Murdered Man Found; Bomb Explodes in Phnom Penh

BK1508071592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Text] Reports reaching the Voice of the Khmer radio newsroom say that the body of an unidentified man was found by villagers underneath a broken bridge in Srei Snam village, Prek Ampil commune, Kandal Stoeng District, Kandal Province. The victim's hands and feet were tied and he had been shot on the right temple.

A report from local villagers says that the body was found on 13 August with his hands tied with a belt and his feet with bicycle elastics; the bullet went through from the right temple to the left. The villagers said that the man is not a local resident; he may have been abducted by a group of persons from Phnom Penh or another place, killed, and left there. There is still no indication whether the murder of this unidentified man is political or personal.

At the same time, in Phnom Penh, a bomb exploded at 1630 in the center of Phsa Thmei market around gold shops, killing one person and wounding seven others.

Indonesia

President Suharto Gives National Day Speech

BK1608105192 Jakarta TVRI Television Network in Indonesian 0352 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Indonesian President Suharto's National Day speech before the plenary session of the House of Representatives or DPR in Jakarta on 15 Aug—live]

[Excerpts] Honorable speaker, deputy speakers, members of the House of Representatives, and other invitees! My fellow countrymen! Peace be upon you!

Two days from now, we and all Indonesians will commemorate the anniversary of the proclamation of our independence. Every time we commemorate the most historic day of our people, our hearts are filled with boundless thanks to Almighty God. [passage omitted]

Let us use this occasion as a solemn opportunity to renew our common determination to consolidate our national strength, to realign our common direction, and to refresh the aspirations and goals of our independence. We refreshed our life as a nation by holding a general election this year. This was the fifth under the 1945 Constitution. Thus, we will enter the fifth cycle of the national leadership. This shows our determination to continue to enliven, develop, refresh, and enrich our democratic and constitutional life. The three sociopolitical forces contesting the general election introduced new themes. Everyone of us could agree or disagree with these themes. This is normal in a democracy and in the atmosphere of openness. Whatever is in line with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, whatever serves our present and future development, and whatever is logical can be discussed and implemented through a consensus. The recent general election gave our people new clarity to widen their vision and channel their aspirations. We are greatly encouraged that Pancasila as the sole ideology has further unified all groups, segments, forces, and generations of our nation. The themes introduced during the election campaigns reflected the national programs of sociopolitical forces. The recent general election strengthened our confidence that the campaigns presenting the future programs were no less interesting than those presenting the ideology of a group, which only led to national tension, disunity, and injury. We have proved that Pancasila as the sole ideology gives us political freedom and democracy. It enriches our ideas, refreshes our religious life, guarantees the freedom of speech, and strengthens human rights. All segments of our nation have been given ample opportunities to contribute positively and creatively to our national task of implementing development programs as a means to practice Pancasila. The recent general election in which over 90 percent of the eligible voters cast their ballots showed that the people have a high sense of political consciousness. This is the result of political development, which is of utmost importance.

With all these encouraging developments, we all should draw a lesson from the holding of the recent general election. With the the election having ended and the emotions subsided, it is now time for us to think calmly about better ways to hold the next general election. We still need quite a long time to consolidate more democratic, more open, and more responsible political culture, traditions, and behavior. We must do this to further strengthen national unity and stability, ensure the progress of our development programs, defend the Pancasila Democracy, and uphold the 1945 Constitution.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI] is a sociopolitical faction that cannot be detached from the nation and people. As the fighting forces that have helped to regain, defend, and uphold national independence, the armed forces are also responsible for the life of the nation and country. This is also a reason why they must be included in the legislature. The proportion of ABRI representatives in legislative assemblies can be adjusted depending on existing developments. We can reach a national consensus on this matter, which would be eventually sanctioned by a law to be jointly drafted by the next government and the DPR, which would be formed following the 1992 general election.

The results of the recent general election are very important for our nation in the future, because the DPR to be formed following the general election, will formulate the new broad outline of state policies that will direct the nation's development in the take-off era. All these will take place in the closing years of the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century.

We are on the threshold of a new century where there will be opportunities and greater hope for the global community. The new century will also be filled with challenges. The cold war has passed, but local wars are erupting in various regions. We are entering the new era with concern. We are witnessing the disintegration of several nations due to internal conflict resulting in the death of millions of people.

We are grateful for being able to defend, strengthen, and maintain our national solidarity and implement programs according to our country's prevailing situation. With the spirit of ASEAN and a cautious approach, we will enter the new era by widening mutual trust among the neighboring southwestern Pacific countries. We are currently savoring peace and stability in this region. All this is important in supporting the continuity of our national development.

As an integral segment of the international community, the continuity of our national development is dependent on global developments. We had undertaken numerous domestic reforms and the results from our development have given us greater hope in facing the future. Many developing nations, which have achieved progress in a diversified manner, are currently emerging and making efforts to achieve greater economic progress and improve their well-being. Success would be absolutely hard to achieve if the international situation is not conducive—though we were to intensify and consolidate all our efforts.

Positive international political reforms have not been observed to be followed by a balanced economic development. Conflicts, imbalance, and injustice still exist between the developed industrialized and developing nations and are yet to be resolved. There are no indications yet when these old and basic problems would be expeditiously settled. In addition, the global economic situation is unpredictable and unstable, but the developed industrialized nations continue to achieve a high level of progress. A large portion of the global community is currently involved in the uphill task of overcoming backwardness, poverty, epidemic, and famine. That large group of people exist in the nonaligned movement of nations—including those within a group of countries in the South. We feel honored at being appointed the host and chairman of the 10th Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit. We will automatically take charge of the NAM for a three-year period. The NAM has not lost its relevance following the end of the cold war. Its member countries need to further intensify the exchange of experiences and extend mutual assistance and cooperation in their efforts to achieve greater development. As such, the nonaligned movement could play a more constructive role. The North-South dialogue should not be viewed as confrontational. Instead, it should be viewed through a spirit of developing a more progressive, peaceful and just world for every nation and its people.

Our major role in the nonaligned movement is to ensure that the provisions in our 1945 Constitution is observed and in alignment with our participation in the world order based on freedom, perpetual peace and social justice. God willing, we will be in a better position to play that role well because we are effective in carrying out our domestic reforms and in elevating our economy.

Beloved countrymen! We are grateful we have now emerged from the trial period and we have managed to cool our overheating economic machinery over the last few months. The inflation rate, which has been rapidly increasing, has declined in the last few months. The prices of food and essential commodities have returned to normal and food is sufficient. While maintaining the stablity that food sufficiency brings, we should take into account the bleak situation faced by our country's various drought-hit regions where several important food staples have been destroyed.

Our international balance of payments has gradually improved. However, we must remain vigilant. Nonoil and nongas exports are indeed bouncing back just as the global economic situation is becoming less favorable. It increased by almost 25 percent during 1991-92. In the preceding year, they grew by about 10 percent. The annnual export of manufactured goods continues steadily to grow. Meanwhile, imports which had increased sharply are again developing normally. Nonoil and nongas imports increased by over 30 percent in 1990-91, and by about 10 percent in 1991-92. We must, however, remain vigilant as current deficits are still huge. The country's foreign exchange reserves continue to be strong and are almost over U.S. $11 billion. The improving oil prices also help to stabilize the economic situation.

Similarly, our success in obtaining soft loans through the Consultative Group for Indonesia, recently organized by the World Bank, has further strengthened our international balance of payments. We must maintain the trust of international circles as much as possible by using the loans for good purposes. The international trust has also proven that we have reponsibly managed foreign loans. Without this, no one would have helped us. Indonesia's success in curbing inflation and maintaining its balance of payments has been very heartening indeed. This should in no way make us complacent. Our economy has started to move in a clear direction, but we must remain vigilant to prevent it from overheating again. We must continue to rely on cautious fiscal and monetary policies in the coming months. We must continue to spur nonoil and nongas exports that have become increasingly important driving forces of our economy and which simulatenously determine the long term stability of our international balance of payments.

Meanwhile, we must also ensure that nonsoft loans, particularly foreign commercial loans, do not surpass safety limits. All these are signs we must follow in managing our economy in the coming years. Our success in overcoming the various challenges has shown that our economic resilience continues to be consolidated. We have pooled our resources and thoughts on efforts to create a more balanced economy motorized by highly competitive industries and based on broader economic activities. We are also making strong efforts to build an economy that has a lesser dependence on oil. All these have shown results. Our economy is becoming stronger at withstanding upheavals. Meanwhile, we also realize that our success in passing trial after trial and overcoming challenge after challenge has been made possible by our measures to cope with the problems. We have sometimes been faced with difficult alternatives. Sometimes, we feel we have to take bitterly difficult measures. But, we have taken them without much hesitation because we have always put national interests above all and ensured the continuity of development programs. As in the past, our measures to overcome the recent economic situation were part of our serious efforts to implement the trilogy of development. We are distributing the results of development programs broadly and equally, spurring growth, and maintaining economic stability. Stability must be given attention because we realize we will have to pay a high price in the future if we do not tackle the matter in the early stages.

In 1989 and 1990, our economic activities were very dynamic. Investments in various sectors and the people's demands for goods and services in general grew sharply. The amount of money circulating in the country rapidly grew. Production in various sectors surpassed their normal capacity. Meanwhile, various infrastructure were lagged behind by the economic dynamism. Imports jumped in excess of [economic] growth. This situation clearly needed safety measures. Rapidly growing investments were the cause of the overheating economy.

We realize that investments in all sectors are greatly needed to replace the declining production capacity as well as to increase it. Investments will increase our ability to produce goods and services to meet domestic demand and exports. We also realize, however, that not all investment plans can be undertaken simultaneously. There are obstacles that should be taken into account on a national scale. The availability of domestic and foreign investments funds are not unlimited. At home, we must ensure that the financing of all investment activities will not increase liquidity above the safety limits. Abroad, we must ensure that foreign loans, particularly commercial and other nonsoft loans will not endanger our international balance of payments. We must be aware of this to manage our economy. Domestic price stability must be maintained, and the balance of payments must be stable. This is important because it involves not only the interests of the people but also the continuity of development programs. The experiences of various countries and our own almost three decades ago have given us a very clear lesson. Economic stability will get out of control if it is neglected. An unstable economy can hinder development and negate the fruits of our development programs. We do not want to be trapped in such a difficult situation, having learned from our very bitter experiences and that of other countries. Thus, regardless of how great our desire to speed up the pace of development, we must not overlook the importance of solid economic stability.

Therefore, after considering those factors, we have adopted a prudent measure in our fiscal and monetary policies so that the liquidity level is within safe limits. The government introduced a monetary policy in the middle of 1990 that came into effect in early 1991. We set aside a portion of the budget as a reserve for development funds for two consecutive fiscal years. The aim of the fund was to ensure the smooth financing of future development projects and to control liquidity. A team from a committee in charge of managing foreign loans was set up to control foreign commercial loans. This is another important step in safeguarding our international balance of payments now or in the future.

Honorable audience! We have been able to maintain our economic stability through these.measures. All of us are aware that there can be no achievements without sacrifice. Monetary control has made the previously available funds difficult to obtain. We have to understand that this is a logical consequence of any effort to cool rapid economic growth. [passage omitted]

The government, however, is trying create a condition where interest rates would start to go down and funds become more available, with the cooling of the economy. Meanwhile, we will continue to deregulate this sector, especially to enhance our long-term economic efficiency. At the same time, deregulation is intended to soften the negative impact of the monetary policy on the production sector as much as possible. The lowering of interest rates and the easing of monetary control have to be carried out in stages and with great caution to avoid nullifying the achievements.

Honorable audience! The impact of monetary control has been strongly felt by certain industries. This, however, has not seriously affected national productivity. Our 1991 economic growth of 6.6 percent was low compared to the two preceding years. This is adequate internationally, and from our own experience. Due to the recession in several industrialized nations, the world economic growth rate for 1991 was negative to minus 2.3 percent. Meanwhile, the growth rate in developing countries was 3.3 percent. It was 5.8 percent in Asian countries.

We have to understand that our slow economic growth is not solely due to our monetary policy. The agriculture sector had grown by only 1.3 percent, due to a drought that damaged a number of important food crops in several provinces. However, the industrial sector managed to maintain about 10 percent growth. Our adequate economic performance in the midst of our monetary control has shown that we have managed to minimize the side effects of the policy on domestic productivity and domestic economic activities. Actually we have harmonized economic stability with economic growth.

Entering 1992, we see clear signs of more stable growth. We have to maintain and improve on this. We will continue to intensify efforts to achieve adequate growth and an equitable distribution of development. [passage omitted]

Previously, I said we had reached a consensus on implementing deregulatory measures and debureaucratization in various areas to refresh and renew our constitution. We have to refresh and renew our constitution to support more complex development in an era of rapid growth. When they are supported by both social and business sectors, people's participation and creativity will be abundant. That is the key to a nation's progress, as this is where reform and innovation emerge and finally increase efficiency and productivity. [passage omitted]

Productivity and efficiency are the results of hard work. As a fighting nation, the Indonesian people have demonstrated that they can work hard. [passage omitted]

Economic deregulation and debureaucratization are aimed at promoting a business atmosphere that will guide and stimulate hard work so that productivity and efficiency can increase. Under the deregulation policy, the business circle is encouraged to increase productivity and efficiency.

Being a developing country, it is only normal for Indonesia to protect emerging domestic industries, as they will become the backbone of the economy in the future. But protection cannot be provided forever because this will suppress the urge to work hard to become more efficient. Continued protection will burden the people because they have to pay higher prices for their necessities. It would sacrifice the people's well being for the sake of supporting domestic industries. Protected industries must mature and become self-reliant in the shortest possible time. Industries that are matured, efficient, and productive are precisely the ones that will become the backbone of the economy.

In this era of globalization, the Indonesian people have no choice but to prepare themselves and their economy to be on par and to be able to compete with other nations and economies. A resilient economy is one that consists of resilient industries. These are, namely, those that depend on productivity and efficiency and that have ability to compete with the industries of other countries. [passage omitted]

Honorable speaker, deputy speakers, and members! Stability and a high economic growth rate must be accompanied by an equitable distribution of development and its fruits for all people. Our equitable distribution policy is comprehensive, continuous, and in conformity with existing social and economic structures. It must be in line with the understanding that our development is based on the active participation of all people. Such a policy must be dynamic, not in the sense of distributing equitable portions of the economic pie, but distributing more equitable portions of the increasingly bigger pie. Such a policy must be accompanied by economic growth and can be achieved only when three factors are present: first, there are more opportunities for all people to take part in development; second, people have more ability to take advantage of opportunities to improve their standard of living; third, there is a stronger spirit of togetherness, solidarity, and unity. We must continue to make efforts to bring about these three factors so as to make the equitable distribution harmonize and support our economic growth and national stability. [passage omitted]

Fellow countrymen! Our equitable distribution policy consists of many development programs and policies. Despite their diverse nature, the programs are indeed unified. At the most basic level, we attach top priority to the program to help the least fortunate group of our people, namely, the impoverished ones. As we all know, the number of impoverished people has declined from about 70 million or about 60 percent of the population in the 1970's to about 27 million people or about 15 percent of the population in 1990. Even though the number of our poor compatriots has decreased dramatically, there is still a significant number of impoverished people in our country. [passage omitted]

Fellow countrymen! We have so far done our best to implement the Trilogy of Development. National development is nothing but our efforts to realize our goals as an independent and sovereign nation. One of the goals is to consolidate and strengthen our independence as a nation. Since the time we began our national development, we have cherished our determination to consolidate our independence through a series of policies. After long periods of effort and hard work, we have finally achieved and maintained self-sufficiency in rice, which has obviously strengthened our independence as a nation. Now we no longer have to bear the impact of the uncertain global rice market, unlike when we were still the world's largest rice-importing nation some time ago. Our efforts to accelerate the growth of our domestic industry and to enhance our technological capability are also part of the overall plan to achieve our independence as a nation. [passage omitted]

As for our development budget, we have also made strenuous efforts to enhance our financial independence. We have succeeded in reducing our dependence on oil revenues since the 1980's. As a result of our new taxation and finance policies, we have succeeded in boosting our development budget from domestic sources, especially from nonoil and nongas sources. Meanwhile, we have also been very careful with our foreign aid policies—we have adopted the principle that foreign aid is only a supplement to our development budget. We accept foreign aid with a sense of gratitude as long as there are no political strings attached and no demanding conditions. It must also be within our means to repay. The formation of the foreign aid scrutiny team is aimed at ensuring that our economy will not be overburdened by excessive foreign aid. [passage omitted]

Fellow countrymen! We are aware that the road to prosperity and independence as a nation is still a long one. One of the ways to reach our goals is through industrialization, which means that we must upgrade our ability to make use of our national resources to produce more value-added goods. Industrialization means that we must make our industrial sector stronger, healthier, and play greater role as an engine of our economic growth. We have laid a stable foundations for this. Our industrial sector has made rapid growth—while it contributed a mere nine percent to the gross national product in the first 5-Year Development Plan, it now contributes 21 percent. [passage omitted]

Our industrialization must not destroy our natural resources and will instead preserve our environment. This will make us promote industries which use little natural resources and energy. We must promote domestic industries which are less dependent on our rich natural resources and energy. We must promote industries which are based on the utilization of skilled, instead of cheap manpower. We have produced high quality and high value-added industrial goods which use little natural resources and energy. We must promote industries using efficient technology which does not jeopardize our environment. [passage omitted]

Fellow countrymen! Such is what our nation has achieved until we celebrate our 47th independence day. We have passed such a long way and experienced plenty of challenges and obstacles, but we have also achieved a lot and will continue to face many new problems. Before I finish this state address, let me say something special to the honorable House speaker, deputy speakers, and members. I am addressing all of you today for the last time because on 1 October, God willing, a new parliament will be formed as a result of the last elections. I will end my term as president after presenting my progress report to the new parliament in its general assembly in March next year. I want to extend my greatest sense of gratitude to the honorable session, which has given constructive cooperation as well as criticism to my policies, which I view as a manifestation of our common responsibility to the country and nation. Such is the constitutional link between the president and the parliament. Despite the shortcomings, both of us have worked together in running the country based on the spirit of the 1945 Constitution. May the almighty God bless all of us! Thank you and peace be upon you!

House Speaker Opens 1992-93 House Session

BK1608130092 Jakarta TVRI Television Network in Indonesian 0255 GMT 15 Aug 92

[Speech by House Speaker Kharis Suhud at the opening of the plenary session of the House of Representatives in Jakarta—live]

[Excerpts] Honorable leaders, senior officials of government institutions, cabinet ministers! Honorable foreign envoys, members of the House of Reprentatives, invitees, and everyone present! [passage omitted]

The House of Representatives [DPR] has already passed 20 draft bills, including communications, insurance, banking, tax revenue and an amendment to the state budget during the just concluded 1991-92 session. Working alongside the government, the DPR also passed draft bills on social security; housing and settlement; cultural objects; the film industry; population and family welfare; quarantine of animals, plants, and fish; and the trademark issue; as well as establishing committees to review the 1989-90 state budget, and to oversee Islamic religious education. There are three more draft bills to be deliberated at the first plenary session of 1992-93. [passage omitted]

Honorable session! We have ealier mentioned the duty of the House of Representatives to formulate basic laws and to draft the state budget. Next, we must present issues related to the implementation of the DPR's supervisory tasks. It is clearly stipulated under the 1945 Constitution that supervisory tasks by members of Parliament are conducted through working meetings, hearings, working visits, as well as by accommodating the people's aspirations and observing the dynamism of the people's lives. Observations over the past five years have revealed a positive public view. [passage omitted]

Under the political system based on the 1945 Constitution, the president is not accountable to the DPR. The Constitution, however, has mandated that the president pay serious attention to the words of the DPR.

Honorable session, on 1 October, several minutes after the new members of the DPR are sworn in, the new members of the People's Consultative Assembly [MPR] will assume their duties. The general session in October will establish the MPR working committee that will prepare the draft decrees to be deliberated in the second session of the MPR in 1993. Unlike the previous MPR general session in October five years ago, this time the factions in the MPR together with their affliated sociopolitical organizations will formulate the broad outline of state policies following the passing over of duties by President Suharto a few months later. [passage omitted]

The main target of the second phase of the long-term development plan is to create a qualified and progressive Indonesian people and society, living in peace and prosperity physically and emotionally based on a social order inspired by the Pancasila ideology. The creation of a qualified society is closely related to the existence of firm national discipline. A clean government is created through civil servants who uphold national discipline by practicing self-discipline and rendering good service to the people. National discipline is required for the take-off process to the second long-term development plan. The sixth Repelita [five-year development plan] will begin on 1 April 1994. [passage omitted]

The rapid growth of Indonesia's economy has brought the nation a side effect. It has spurred an eagerness to undertake market-oriented business activities and free competition, which are feared to lead to liberalism. [passage omitted]

In line with the 1945 Constitution, family-oriented principles should be adopted in our national economic life. They are seen in the relations between producers, middlemen, and consumers. They are also found in the relations among the three economic pillars—state enterprises, private companies, and cooperatives. [passage omitted]

Family-oriented principles are used as the basis to protect, develop, and improve small-scale businessmen and efforts will be intensified to prevent monopolies in the industrial sector.

The government has been successful in maintaining the continuity of its development program by using local or foreign funds. Although foreign funding is only complimentary in nature, the amount is growing. Indonesia takes pride in gaining international confidence in its economy and its ability to repay its foreign debt plus interest. In so doing, the government will boost export activities apart from looking for new resources in a way that will not be burdensome to the people. One of the new resources is in the form of taxation. [passage omitted]

Honorable session! In recent years, the DPR has increased its activities on the international level. Among the activities are its membership in the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization [AIPO], and the Inter-Parliamentray Union [IPU]. The DPR has become more involved in world parliamentary organizations by participating in exchanges of visits to friendly countries and international forums on the environment, women's affairs, politics, defense and security, international economy, and tourism. It also took part in Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Speakers forums. Apart from that, after a 10-year delay, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization Secretariat was established in Jakarta and the AIPO's 13th General Assembly will be held in Jakarta in September in 1992. Indonesia is the current secretary general of AIPO until 1993. [passage omitted]

The DPR wishes to express its gratitude to the participants at the recent meeting of the ASEAN foreign ministers in Manila for issuing the declaration on the Spratly Islands. This reflects a modern step in enhancing the responsibility of nations in this region for giving priority to mutual trust and peace. This will contribute to increasing regional stability and decreasing international tension. With Vietnam and Laos signing the treaty on cooperation in Southeast Asia, we are now moving closer to the creation of a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality as well as a nuclear weapons free zone in Southeast Asia. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Police Corruption Leads Ramos To Dismiss Chief

HK1608063992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0502 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] Manila, Aug 16 (AFP)—President Fidel Ramos has fired his chief of police Cesar Nazareno amidst allegations linking police officers to corruption and other criminal activities, newspapers reported here Sunday [16 August].

Police spokesmen confirmed that Nazareno's deputy, Raul Imperial, had taken over as acting director-general of the 40,000-strong Philippine National Police. But they declined to confirm that Nazareno had been sacked.

The reports said Nazareno was fired at the end of a three-hour meeting with Ramos on Saturday during which they discussed allegations of police corruption, including alleged links between high-ranking officers and illegal gambling and kidnapping gangs.

The deputy president of the Senate, Ernesto Maceda, said the removal of Nazareno was against the law.

In a radio interview here Maceda said the president could not replace the country's police chief before the expiry of his four-year term unless he was suspended, charged in court, or voluntarily resigned.

Nazareno only learned that he has been relieved late Saturday when Imperial went to his office and informed him that he was taking over, Maceda said.

Maceda claimed key positions were being awarded to allies of Ramos, who took office on June 30. "They want to claim the spoils of victory," he added.

Nazareno To Quit; Ramos Denies Firing

HK1708063392 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Aug 92 p 1

[By Cynthia Balana and Dave Veridiano]

[Text] Embattled Director General Cesar P. Nazareno will step down within the next few days as Philippine National Police [PNP] chief, PNP Deputy Director General Raul Imperial said yesterday.

Imperial, who is second in command in the PNP hierarchy, will take over the top police post in an acting capacity.

The reported top-level revamp at the PNP followed weeks of reports on the alleged involvement of ranking police officers in kidnap-for-ransom gangs and other criminal syndicates.

Nazareno himself has felt that he was being alluded to by reports that a ranking PNP general was involved in illegal gambling and other criminal activities.

President Ramos, however, denied reports he has relieved Nazareno.

President spokesperson Annabelle Tecson-Abaya said the President has not issued any formal order relieving the embattled PNP chief from his post.

"(Mr Ramos) denied that he had relieved Nazareno and there was also no offer from General Nazareno to resign," Abaya told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The President was with members of his Cabinet on a cruise around Manila Bay aboard mv/Ang Pangulo for a whole-day "fellowship," an apparent effort to quash reports of schisms between power blocs in his seven-week-old administration.

In a press conference at the PNP Public Information Office in Camp Crame yesterday, Imperial said there has been no formal order for Nazareno's relief, and he himself has not received the President's official orders for him to assume the post.

But Imperial, member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1959, said he was summoned Saturday [15 August] morning to Malacanang, where he was told to prepare to assume Nazareno's post.

"As of the moment, in the absence of formal orders, General Nazareno is still chief of the PNP," he said.

A few hours before the press conference, Imperial said, he met Nazareno at the PNP heaquarters and Nazareno intimated to him that "he (Nazareno) would be stepping down soon."

Sources at Camp Crame said Nazareno's decision to step down any time this week, probably on Wednesday, could have been prompted by a news leak emanating from Malacanang that the President had relieved Nazareno during their three-hour meeting last Saturday.

"Nazareno volunteered to the President to step down to spare the entire PNP organization from worsening criticisms, but not until everything has been cleared, particularly the accusation against some members of his family," a retired police general told the INQUIRER.

"However, a power bloc at the Palace, who long wanted the ouster of Nazareno for still unknown reasons, tried to hasten Nazareno's resignation from the PNP post by deliberately leaking the agreement between the President and the PNP chief," the ex-general added.

Imperial, meanwhile, said "anything can still happen" because there was no formal order yet from the President.

In Malacanang, Abaya confirmed that the President and Nazareno met for three hours last Saturday in Malacanang but it was "to discuss the objectives, directions that need to be set in the PNP."

But Palace sources said the President asked Nazareno about the intelligence reports linking the police chief to various criminal activities in the country and who was possibly behind the smear campaign against him.

At Camp Crame, Imperial also clarified the circumstances surrounding the controversial appointment of 12 PNP provincial directors.

Reports said the President was inked by the premature leak on the PNP appointments, which have been criticized by senators and local officials, and that this could have prompted him to ask for Nazareno's relief.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan III has also said the appointments should not have been made public before these were taken up with the concerned governors.

Imperial said that when he was acting PNP chief from Aug 1 to 6 while Nazareno was attending a conference of chiefs of police in Brunei, he was instructed by Alunan to hold in abeyance the appointments of provincial directors pending consultation with the local executives concerned.

Imperial said he did not know how the draft list of the appointees found its way to the media.

Yesterday, Sen. Blas Ople admitted that he was the one who leaked the appointments, which he learned from the governors themselves.

Senators Ople, Ernesto Maceda and Ernesto Herrera charged that Mr Ramos violated the Local Government Code and the PNP law by signing Alunan's recommendation.

As such, they said, the President could be subjected to impeachment proceedings.

Nazareno had been the target of intrigues since the alleged involvement of PNP members in criminal activities surfaced weeks ago.

The investigation into the alleged involvement of ranking police officers in kidnap-for-ransom syndicates has resulted in the relief of Chief Superintendent Ernesto Diokno and Chief Inspector Jose Pring of the Western Police District Command and the dismissal of Chief Inspector Timoteo Zarcal of the Criminal Investigation Service Command.

In a privilege speech last week, Rep. Robert Barbers of Surigao del Norte demanded that Nazareno and other top PNP officials take a leave of absence to pave the way for the total reorganization of the PNP.

Senators: Ramos Violated Law in Revamping Police

HK1708030592 Quezon City MALAYA in English 15 Aug 92 p 1

[By Romy Tangbawan]

[Text] Three senators yesterday said President Ramos violated the Constitution and the local government code when he bypassed provincial governors in the appointment of 12 provincial police directors.

Senators Blas Ople (LDP) [Struggle of Filipino Democrats], Ernesto Herrera (LDP) and Ernesto Maceda (NPC) [Nationalist People's Coalition] also said Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan could be sacked for recommending the appointment of the new police chiefs.

The senators said several governors have complained they were disregarded by the President when he named the new police directors last Aug 4.

"Unless immediately corrected, this action also sends a signal, which may not be intended at all by the President, that the present administration is determined to downgrade the principle of local autonomy," Ople said.

Ople said if the Palace order is not rescinded and the lower courts refuse to act favorably on requests for injunction, he and Herrera will help the governors bring the case to the Supreme Court.

Ople said only Bulacan Gov Roberto Pagdanganan was able to stop Superintendent Reynaldo Acop from assuming his command through a court injunction.

"It is very clear that Secretary Alunan usurped the powers of the local government officials," Herrera said. He added that Alunan's "major blunder" would be sufficient grounds to block his nomination as DILG [Department of Interior and Local Governments] chief before the Commission on Appointments.

The senators said the law creating the PNP [Philippine National Police] empowers governors to choose the provincial director from a list of three recommendees from the PNP regional director.

Ople said Cavite Gov. Juanito Remulla had said the Palace action "renders the power (of local officials)... illusory."

The President named as regional directors upon Alunan's recommendation Senior Superintendent Elpidio Ablang, Regional Command [Recom] 1 (Ilocos); Chief Superintendent Dioscoro Yorro, Recom 5 (Bicol); and Chief Superintendent Job Mayo Jr., Recom 9 (Western Mindanao).

The provincial directors are Superintendents Florencio Fianza, Batangas; Reynaldo Acop, Bulacan; Ruben Cabagnot, Cavite; Alexander Bellen, Isabela; Arturo Lomibao, La Union; Marcelo Navarro, Laguna; Apuleyo Orias, metro Cebu; Francisco Zubia, Nueva Ecija; Victor Luga, Nueva Vizcaya; Hercules Cataluna, Negros Occidental; Amado Espino, Pangasinan, and Robert Deltin, Rizal.

Body Formed To Implement Rebel Amnesty Program

HK1708062192 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Aug 92 p 1

[By Fred M. Lobo]

[Text] President Ramos formed yesterday the National Unification Council (NUC) and named six officials from Congress and the Cabinet as its members to formulate the overall comprehensive amnesty and reconciliation program for all rebel forces in the country.

The President said that the NUC will hold exploratory peace talks with various rebel groups and set a time frame for all rebels to return to the fold of the law and abandon armed struggle or destabilizing acts.

Named by Ramos to the NUC were Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Wigberto Tanada; Reps. Jose Yap (Tarlac) and Eduardo Ermita (Batangas); and Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon.

The President added that he will name three more members from the private sector immediately after Congress shall have passed a joint resolution affirming the creation of the NUC.

The formation of the NUC is considered a crucial component of a four-step amnesty and reconciliation program proposed earlier by Ramos to Congress.

The other components are the grant of an amnesty and the legalization of the Communist Party of the Philippines and other similar groups still being worked out with Congress, and the ongoing grant of bail, release or pardon to rebels who are now under government custody.

Malacanang officials said that the formation of the NUC will pave the way for exploratory peace talks with various rebel forces.

Ramos said earlier that the body will talk with communists, military rightists and even secessionist groups to find ways to end their armed struggle and destabilizing acts.

The President said that the idea is to bring all rebel forces back to the fold of the law, let rebels lead normal lives and allow peace to reign in the country to speed up national growth and prosperity.

He said that the efforts should be carried out through close coordination between the Executive and the Legislative branches of government and the support of the private sector, the attainment of peace being a multisectoral responsibility.

As an initial move, Ramos approved Tuesday [11 Aug] the grant of bail, release or pardon to rebels now under the custody of the government for crimes against national security and public order and violations of the Articles of War.

He said that those covered by the program, whether communists or military rebels, should only apply and comply with the guidelines imposed by the presidential committee handling the matter.

The program has already resulted in the grant of bail to some rebels facing charges in court.

Feelers on surrender have also started reaching Malacanang from rebel forces in various parts of the country, indicating favorable response to the government's amnesty and reconciliation program.

217 'NPA Regulars,' Others Respond to Amnesty

HK1408111292 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Aug 92 p 1

[By Isabel C. de Leon and Mike Crismundo]

[Text] President Ramos' amnesty program drew a major response yesterday in Cagayan and Agusan del Sur provinces where a total of 607 New People's Army (NPA) rebels surrendered to the government.

A total of 416 rebels surrendered in Agusan del Sur and 191 in Cagayan.

Of the 416 insurgents, 26 were NPA regulars, 188 party members and 262 subversive mass activists (SMAs). They were reported to have yielded to Army Task Force Diamond and Mayor Isash Masindo of Talacogon.

The Cagayan surrenderees were all NPA regulars, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. who called on President Ramos yesterday at Malacanang.

"The process to take care of our misguided brothers that have come down from the hills is already in place," the President said.

De Venecia and a group of 24 members of the House of Representatives met with the President to discuss the ramifications of the government's amnesty program.

President Ramos took the occasion to urge Rep. Mariano Padelles of Lanao del Sur to negotiate with Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels the terms of the amnesty offer as they apply to them.

The President also gave the go signal to Congressmen Jose Yap and Eric Singson to proceed to Sweden [as published] to negotiate with Jose Ma. Sison, founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and Fr. Luis Jalandoni, chairman of the National Democratic Front (NDF).

He instructed Defense Secretary Renato de Villa to attend to all the economic requirements of the rebel returnees by providing them with sufficient income-generating livelihood projects.

The President said that he would hand out amnesty diplomas or certificates to the rebel returnees as proof of their "rejoining" the fold of the law in a peaceful manner.

He had earlier approved the grant of bail, release, or pardon to rebels who committed offenses on or before July 27, 1992.

Under the guidelines, the rebels will have to file their applications with the subcommittees created in every province or city.

The first beneficiary of the amnesty program was Ricardo Basilio Reyes, a detained member of the executive committee and political bureau of the CPP, who was released Wednesday [12 Aug] after posting a P140,000 [Philippine pesos] bail.

Reyes was charged with illegal possession of firearm and ammunition and violation of Republic Act 7166.

President Ramos said yesterday that rebel returnees can now avail of amnesty certificates if they are qualified under the guidelines set by a government panel.

The President said the issuance of amnesty certificates is among the first steps under the mechanics of his peace initiatives drawn up by the departments of justice, national defense, and local governments.

Last Tuesday, the President approved the grant of bail, release or pardon to rebels under government custody nationwide to set in motion the amnesty and peace programs of his administration.

The guidelines, which cover both communist and military rebels, were jointly recommended to the President by Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, and Interior and Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan III.

Amnesty Official To Meet Communist Leader Sison

HK1408113092 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Congressman Jose "Apeng" Yap's trip to the Netherlands for talks with Jose Maria Sison will just be exploratory in nature.

In an interview with DZXL, Yap said he will present President Fidel Ramos' peace initiative to Jose Maria Sison.

He insisted there is a big change in Ramos's amnesty offer to leftist rebels compared to the past regime's.

[Begin Yap recording, in progress] ...initiative of the president, but for me, there is a difference when compared to the former. Before, the government's position was too hardline. For instance, regarding the plight of the political detainees, there was no change in the government's position. The rebels were charged with common crimes, thus creating a barrier to talks, because the rebels have claimed the government was not sincere. Now, there is a review, a policy guideline. There is a big difference compared to the past administration's policy.

Another thing that must be noted is the repeal of Republic Act 1700.

The topic 'formal negotiations' is too broad. Thus, before these talks, there must be what they call confidence-building measures in order to exhibit sincerity between the National Democratic Front and the government. [end recording]

Sison on Cease-Fire, U.S. Bases

HK1708094392 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Passage in italics in English]

[Text] Jose Maria Sison, exiled leader of the Communist Party of the Philippines, during an interview with DZXL this morning, stressed that a *substantive agreement* between the government and the communist movement must be reached to ensure the success of the coming peace talks between the two. He also said the National Democratic Front would only agree to a cease-fire during instances needing humanitarian consideration.

[Begin Sison recording] The revolutionary movement finds it difficult to enter into a long term, renewable, and extendible cease-fire of thirty or more days because it might be to the movement's disadvantage. Even if the agreement was applicable to both parties, the revolutionary movement still becomes more vulnerable, and hence, stands to lose more. Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Philippines continues to attack New People's Army's camps in the name of peace and order.

If such were the case, there is no guarantee that a mutual cease-fire agreement would be observed. [end recording]

At the same time, Sison charged the United States of having a specific plan for President Ramos with regard to the presence of U.S. troops in the country. He said that despite the constitutional provision allowing U.S. forces to remain in the Philippines only up until the end of September, the Philippine Government still continues to come up with ways to maintain the interests of the United States in the country.

[Begin recording] [Sison] There are signs which prove that one of the missions given by the United States to President Ramos is to retain U.S. control over Subic Naval Base.

We all know that the United States, through its personnel, is still in control of the country's radar stations.

There is also U.S. control within the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which is still dependent on the United States for direction and logistical supplies. [end recording]

'Classes at All Levels' Suspended Due to Floods

HK1708071292 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Excerpts] Classes at all levels are suspended today. This statement was made by Education Undersecretary Erlinda (Tanchiangco) in an interview with Tony Valencia of Radyo ng Bayan.

Earlier, Mayor Ignacio Bunyi, Metro Manila Authority chairman, suspended classes within Metro Manila up to this afternoon, following flash foods in several areas of the metropolis brought about by torrential rains.

[Begin (Tanchiangco) recording in English] Classes in all levels at the National Capital Region will remain suspended for the day. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, more than 2,000 residents near Mt. Pinatubo have already fled their homes following landslides and lahar flows caused by heavy rainfall.

It is said that a number of bridges in Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales have already been destroyed by the raging flood.

Police Superintendent Pantaleon Dumlao, chairman of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, said that most of those who were evacuated were Aetas [tribal minority] from the towns of Porac, Pampanga, and barangay Mabuklod, Floridablanca.

In Zambales, it was reported that more than 20 families were evacuated to higher areas in San Marcelino. Eighty-four families from the lower areas of Capas, Tarlac were also evacuated to higher ground.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development [DSWD] has also received reports from different government agencies of widespread floods in the various barangays of Pampanga. DSWD Secretary Corazon Alma de Leon named the affected areas.

[Begin De Leon recording] In Pampanga, 300 families—or 1,687 persons—from barangay Mabuklod, Floridablanca have already been evacuated to barangay (Sadomaes), Floridablanca.

We have also received additional reports indicating that 10 barangays are now flooded in municipalities of Macabebe, Lubao, and Sta. Anna, Pampanga. This is based on a report by our Region III office.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology announced that Mt. Pinatubo's situation remains the same as it has been in the past few days. Renato Salidum of Philvocs told Philippine Broadcasting Company News said Mt. Pinatubo continues to register low-frequency seismic activity; however, he clarified that the threat of another explosion remains. All residents within the 10 km-radius danger zone are advised to remain alert.

IMF Starts Review of Economic Performance

HK1708064292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Aug 92 p 17

[By Margie Quimpo-Espino]

[Text] Top government finance officials start formal talks today with a four-member mission from the International

Monetary Fund [IMF] on the country's compliance with a Fund-sponsored economic stabilization program.

A favorable review by the mission will pave the way for the release of more than $500 million in new loans needed for the economic recovery of the Philippines.

"I am confident that we (have) met all the criteria that will enable the completion of the review," Central Bank [CB] Governor Jose L. Cuisia said over the weekend.

He said a positive review would lead to the release of the fifth and seventh tranches with a total worth of $80 million of the $300-million IMF standby credit.

A good review would also lead to the release of a $400 million economic integration loan (EIL) from the IMF, the World Bank and the Japan Export Import Bank.

The CB chief said the review is expected to be completed before the end of August.

"We hope it will be taken up by the IMF Board by early October," he said.

He added, however, that the closing of the $4.3-billion debt restructuring package recently concluded between the Philippine government and its foreign bank-creditors may be delayed.

The package needs the seal of approval of the IMF before it can be implemented. The seal will depend on a positive outcome of the IMF review.

"We will try to catch the annual meeting of the IMF," Cuisia said. It will have its meeting sometime in September.

The package cancels $4.43 billion of the country's foreign debts through a bond conversion process.

Cuisia pointed out that the country is losing savings opportunities with the delay in the closing of the debt package.

"The losses are not substantial if the delay is just for a few weeks. But if we look at the delay since the signing of the package, we have incurred losses already," he said.

The losses refer to the country's inability to get lower rates applied to its loans, which it can get with the closing of the package.

The review of the country's compliance with the economic stabilization program was supposed to have been done last March but was delayed to allow the country more time to meet some of its targets, in particular its money supply ceilings.

"I don't have the figures for the base money yet but I can say with confidence that we have met the reserve money targets," he said.

Meantime, Cuisia said that after the IMF review, the government will "assess the possibility of a fifth round of Paris Club restructuring."

The Paris Club is an informal grouping of developed countries which have lent substantial loans to the Philippines and other developing countries.

Since 1983, the country has renegotiated its Paris Club loans four times.

Thailand

Minister Urges Quick Formation of Trade Bloc

BK1508085992 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
15 Aug 92 p 7

[Text] According to Deputy Industry Minister Wira Susangkonkan, the successful establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] will severely affect Thailand and, therefore, the set-up of the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA] must be speeded up. He said the 15-year steps for the formation of AFTA are too long. Wira added that eight Thai products are currently ready for inclusion into AFTA. Once NAFTA is established, Mexico will become a major investment and labor center. Therefore, Wira said, Thailand must earnestly solve the impediments to investment such as a weak industrial infrastructure, high land prices, and low-skill labor.

Meanwhile, Wirot Amatakunchai, president of the Thai Apparel Producers Association, said NAFTA would indeed affect the Thai textile industry but it will not be severe because Mexican textiles are inferior in quality. He noted that Thai textile productivity would have to be increased in order to lower costs.

Businessmen Discuss Countermeasures to NAFTA

BK1508130592 Bangkok THE NATION in English
15 Aug 92 p B8

[Text] As Thai officials predicted that Mexico would pose the threat to Thai exports to the US under the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), Thai businessmen also felt the eventual winners would be Japanese, Taiwanese and Koreans.

US President George Bush announced the pact to form Nafta on Wednesday in which all tariffs among the US, Canada and Mexico would be eliminated over the period of 15 years, starting 1994.

The pact is of significance to Thailand since Thai exports in North America accounted for 23 percent, or equivalent to Baht 165.5 billion, of the total Thai exports. The US market accounted for 21.3 percent of this.

In a positive scenario, Thai businessmen predicted that the creation of Nafta would expand the market for Thai farm exports which will be able to enter the world's biggest market with a population of 360 million people.

While the world is transforming itself into several trading groups, Thai businessmen shared a similar idea that countries which believe in trade and global investment would emerge triumphant.

They cited in particular the three Asian industrialised countries—Japan Korea and Taiwan—which had set production bases to expand markets for their products by cashing in on countries with trade privileges in different parts of the world.

The Thai private sector suggested that the formation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) should be accelerated so as to strengthen the bargaining power of the South East Asian region.

A resurgence of protectionism did not happen yesterday, but it is the topic which has been widely mentioned in the past decade.

"It is a good test for local exporters how they can survive in the changing world economy," said Suphawit Wuthiudomloet, vice president of the GSS Array Technology, an exporter of electrical components.

"The creation of a trading bloc certainly leads to protectionism, but if it is a rule of the international community, we have to adjust ourselves to fit the rules of the game," said Suphawit.

GSS Array acquired US firm, Array Technology Co Ltd, last year so as to acquire higher technology and expand the market in the US and Canada as well.

Unicord Co Ltd, the biggest exporter of canned tuna to the US, completed the largest takeover of a US company by a Thai firm by acquiring Bumble Bee Ltd a few years ago to sidestep trade protectionism and strengthen its previous vulnerable position in the world's biggest market for canned tuna.

Mongkhon Saraniyatham, vice president of Unicord Co Ltd, suggested local exporters should starting thinking of setting up trading firms and relocate the production base overseas to avoid possible damage from the formation of trading blocs.

At the same time, the government should also implement a foreign investment promotion policy to encourage Thai investors to invest overseas.

"We have to have a global vision," he said.

Mexico is seen as the best investment of the three. Its economic fundamentals and labour incentives can be compared with several developing countries in Asia.

While most of the government officials expressed concern that Thai exports would lose competitiveness if the formation of the world's largest free trade area lead to a transfer of production bases to benefit the low labour cost in Mexico, Suphawit said: "I think it is not a matter of the shift of production base, but, in fact, the question lies with an ability to manage the production."

Chatri Chitkomut, chairman of the Thai Shoes Exporters Association had a similar view. He said it might be too risky for Thai investors to follow the Japanese directions now. "We might not be able to do so. The foreign investment is something new for Thai businessmen, therefore, we have to weigh pros and cons of such an effort," he said.

Chatri cited the technology competition as one of the difficulties facing Thai firms.

Chatri said that it was too early to assess the damages while the details of the Nafta have not yet made available but he suggested that Thailand should be prepared to cope with the changing situation. The formation of Nafta may create trade barriers for outside countries in the same way as the Single Market in the European Community, he said.

But one certainty is that Thai textile and garment exports will be the first to feel the impact, followed by shoes and other low-labour cost products.

Mongkhon said that, therefore, the government should help the private sector by supplying them with the essential information on the newest free trade area. The study should be done on a horizontal basis in the initial stages to study which products would be subject to the trade barrier, and the vertical study should be done afterwards to go through details in each category.

At Taolanon, Executive Vice President CP [Charoen Phokkhaphan] Group of Companies predicted that the trade grouping of the global community would lead to fiercer competition in trade and investment. The creation of new trading bloc would result in pressure to change the structure of the international trade talks on the farm issue under the Uruguay Round.

Mongkhon said the government, therefore, should speed up the implementation of ASEAN Free Trade Area (Afta) so as to create more trade cooperation among the South East Asian nations.

If the Afta comes into shape, Suphawit foresees the intra market among the countries in the Asia-Pacific rim.

"It is a nature of Asian people to dispute over small issues, despite the fact that Afta principles would lead to great benefit in the long term," he said, in a direct reference to the current impasse among the ASEAN member over the formation of Afta.

Government Not Ready To Resume U.S. Air Talks

BK1708024592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Aug 92 p B1

[Text] Thailand is not ready to reopen bilateral aviation talks with the United States this autumn, saying it needs to monitor flight performance on the lucrative Asian routes for a while longer yet.

A state officer said Thailand wants to see South Korea-Japan-Bangkok flights and US-South Korea-Japan-Bangkok made on an equal basis of passenger capacity before opening aviation talks.

The bilateral air talks of the two countries were scrapped in 1990. They agreed to maintain level of flight frequency until last October. A new round of talks is still pending.

Flights of the two countries are being operated under a case by case agreement while the US wants to seek a permanent contract as fast as possible.

The officer said flights from the US to Bangkok with stopovers at South Korea and Japan are still more than direct flights from the US—by about 40 per cent—making the Thai delegation opt to postpone the talks for some time.

Thailand and the US latest talks in March 1992 resulted in an extension of an interim bilateral air service arrangement from April 1992 to October 1992. The extension followed the US agreeing to give traffic rights to Thai Airways International [THAI] to fly to Guam.

United Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Delta Airlines and Federal Express are operating 37 flights under which seven flights are for cargo service and 30 for passengers.

"We could not make any decision to open a new round of talks now because we want to know the tendency of flights and any affects on Thai Airways International first," a Transport and Communication Ministry source said.

He added there would be no problems allowing the US to operate flights on case-by-case basis for Thailand.

"It means that Thailand could ask the US to increase or decrease its flights because THAI is operating very few flights to the US at the moment," he said.

Thailand has been seeking a fair deal in flight operations between Thailand and US routes.

The US carriers have exercised the "fifth freedom" against the interests of THAI by flying more passengers from the major stopovers such as Japan, Taiwan or Korea than the original departure points in America.

Thai Airways International is likely to cut its flights to the US due to accumulated losses.

Last month, THAI decided not to fly Bangkok-Seattle. However, THAI still flies Bangkok-Los Angeles seven times a week.

The national carrier will stop flying to Seattle as part of a programme to cut expenditure .

The effective date to stop the flights is October 26, according to Chatrachai Bunya-ananta, THAI executive vice president.

The source said the transport and communications ministry has not yet decided whether to appoint Rungrot Siprasoetsuk, ministry permanent secretary, to head the Thai delegation for the new air talks.

Diplomatic Relations With Yugoslavia Downgraded

BK1708145292 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said that Ukrit Duriyaphromma, Thai ambassador to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, had resigned from government service to attend to business. Sakthip said that the Thai Government will not appoint any replacement because the United Nations has adopted a resolution to reduce the number of diplomats in Belgrade. Thailand respects this decision. There have only been about three or four embassy officials in Belgrade at any time in the past.

Sakthip also said that with Thailand not appointing any replacement for ambassador, diplomatic contact with that country would thereby be downgraded. The charge d'affaires will be the only Thai representative in Belgrade. The United Nations adopted the resolution to downgrade diplomatic relations because the central government of Yugoslavia sent troops to invade Sarajevo in Bosnia- Hercegovina.

SRV Delegation Arrives To Study Administration

BK1508121092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Aug 92 p A4

[Text] A Vietnamese delegation arrived here yesterday for a four-day visit at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) to observe the city administration.

Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said Vice Director of the Hanoi Trade Service Phan Van Da was leading five economic officials on the visit.

The group is scheduled to visit Bangkok Governor Kritsada Arun-wong na Ayutthaya and observe the city administration as well as management of state and private-run markets.

Their itinerary will include visits to the Chatuchak weekend market and that in the Pratunam area, he said. The Vietnamese will also visit well-known department stores in Bangkok to observe free-market administration.

Rival Parties Dispute Over Opening to Indochina

BK1708032592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Aug 92 p A6

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Indochina has suddenly become an issue of some importance in this election campaign, and the reason is anything but philanthropic. As never before, Thai politicians are actually "talking" about their all-but-ignored neighbours.

Even the Phalang Tham Party, with its roots firmly entrenched in Bangkok, is also extolling the virtues of trading with Indochina. But only two major parties, Chat

Phatthana and New Aspiration, are (because of their respective leaders) claiming credit for the emergence of the market economies in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

It is understandable, in a political sense at least, why the parties are making capital out of Indochina. There are a combined 12 seats in the 17 Indochina front-line provinces that make up the Northeast—the largest bloc in the 360-seat House of Representatives.

By linking Indochina with Thailand's poor Northeast, and raising the expectation of improved living standards, Thai political parties contesting in the Northeast hope to boost their chances in the Sept 13 election.

Four years ago this month, former prime minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, then the leader of Chat Thai Party, launched his controversial policy of turning the Indochinese battlefield into a marketplace. It was phenomenal idea, although it was both widely hailed and condemned at home and abroad. Among the ASEAN countries in particular there was considerable stirring.

Now heading a new party, Chat Phatthana, Chatchai wants to revitalize the policy which made him famous. When the politicians took to the hustings, he was the first to outline a key policy toward Indochina. In the past few weeks he has made statements and given many speeches on Thailand's future relations with Indochina as he sees it.

New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who has a significant personal and political stake in the Northeast, was quick to issue rebuttals over Chatchai's campaign initiative. Now Chatchai and Chawalit are locked in a heated argument over which of the two was the key person in the move for improving ties with Indochina.

During his recent week-long campaign drive through the northeastern provinces, Chatchai said it was he and he alone who had linked Indochina with Thailand's poorest region. He highlighted what he called undisputed "achievements" during the two-year period he served as prime minister.

He said the ongoing construction of the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge was one of the tangible successes. The bridge would be the gateway to Indochina, he said.

Within hours, Chavalit, who served briefly as deputy prime minister under Chatchai, shot back that Chatchai's success in fact came later on. "Without peace between Thailand and Laos, how could the Thai-Lao bridge be built or trade with Indochina be possible?" he retorted.

Chawalit, the former army chief, played an important role in ending the border war between Thailand and Laos over the disputed Ban Romklao in 1986. Since the 90-day war, bilateral relations have improved considerably.

As far as establishing policies on Indochina is concerned, Chat Phatthana enjoys a head start because Chatchai was the man behind the closer ties with Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

This week he is visiting Phnom Penh on the invitation of Prime Minister Hun Sen to reap the rewards for his efforts to reach a settlement to the Cambodian conflict. In a way Hun Sen is still grateful to Chatchai for ending Cambodia's isolation and ensuring further international recognition.

Doubtless, the former prime minister will use his Phnom Penh trip to boost the popularity of his party by playing on the fact that because of him it is the only party with "real" connections to Indochina. In addition, Chatchai will also be able to promote his image as the Thai politician most knowledgeable about world affairs.

New Aspiration is certain to adopt a similar campaign strategy by emphasizing Chawalit's role in developing friendly ties with neighbouring countries, particularly Laos, Burma and Cambodia.

Chawalit can't afford to lose the initiative as in the previous election in March 1992 his party snared 44 seats in the Northeast, the largest of any party. He will not want to see this power base eroded.

Although one of Chawalit's most noted achievements was his support for the military junta in Burma, it is not likely to be featured in his campaign platform. As army chief, he maintained close personal ties with the Burmese junta leaders, a link that has been decried by many countries.

But the rush to cash in on Indochina by political parties is too much too late. In the past few years, Indochina's economic condition has changed so rapidly that Thailand is increasingly becoming irrelevant to its development. In short, Indochina does not need Thailand as it once did.

Look at the position of Indochina and Thailand today. After 18 years of diplomatic ties, and a four-year head start on the turning of the Indochina battlefield into a marketplace, Thailand's trade and investment with Indochina is still very small.

According to a recent statistic, Malaysia is the biggest ASEAN investor in Vietnam with a total investment of US$78.8 million. It took Malaysia only four to five months to accomplish this. In fact, Malaysia is emerging as the most important ASEAN country in Vietnam's ongoing economic reforms.

By comparison, it took Thailand almost two decades to accumulate US$43.7 million worth of investment, most of it in small-scale projects. Thailand's multicorporations have failed in Vietnam.

In respect of trade, Singapore is Vietnam's largest partner with goods worth more than US$600 million annually. Thailand's trade with Vietnam was less than US$200 million last year.

So what is all this talk about Thailand being No. 1 in Indochina? What kind of benefit will the people in the Northeast receive in the end?

Thai leaders and businessmen continue to maintain the deceit that Thailand is the "hub" or "gateway" to Indochina. In reality, Hong Kong and Singapore are the real gateways to Vietnam. It is also easier now to fly to Indochina from these two island states.

For the sake of the people in the Northeast, what is needed now is action, not more rhetoric. Otherwise small businessmen who go to Indochina for their own short-term gains will continue to foster the bad reputation that Thailand has developed in respect of its neighbours.

Given its geographical proximity, the poor Isan deserves to enjoy a bigger share of real economic benefit from the opening up of Indochina, instead of more hot air.

Political Effects of Assets Confiscation Viewed

BK1708030792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Aug 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Assets Issue Divides Parties Into 2 Camps"]

[Text] Chat Phatthana now appears to be the party to beat in the election while its leader Gen Chatchai Chunhawan is the most visible front-runner in the race for the premiership. Chatchai's high profile will be enhanced this week when he visits Phnom Penh for an informal meeting with Premier Hun Sen to discuss Thai-Cambodian relations.

While Chatchai is trying to capitalize on his experience in diplomacy, which most of the other Thai political leaders lack, his rivals are bidding to counter this by questioning his credibility. They are reminding voters that the ex-premier who was deposed in the February 1991 coup has had Bt [baht] 226.5 million in assets seized by the state.

After the coup removed the Chatchai administration, the coupmakers set up an assets investigation committee to probe the wealth of Chatchai and 34 former ministers and aides. The committee found Chatchai had become "unusually wealthy" during his premiership which spanned 1989-91, and recommended the seizure of assets it considered to have been acquired through questionable means. Now Chatchai, like the nine others who had their assets seized, is appealing to the court to have the decision overturned.

Chatchai contends that he is innocent because the investigation committee was a political tool of the coupmakers who sought to discredit him and many other veteran politicians. His party is turning the issue around to show that Chatchai was a victim of both the 1991 coup and the assets probe, and that the coup-makers wanted to "destroy" Chatchai in order to have one of their leaders (Gen Suchinda Khraprayun) installed in power after the election last March.

The assets confiscation issue was raised during the nationally- televised TV pool programme yesterday. Eleven parties were asked to state their positions on joining a government coalition consisting of parties with "unusually wealthy" politicians. (Chat Thai didn't send anyone to the programme.)

New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who is widely seen as the second frontrunner, gave a fairly clear response: New Aspiration will not have anything to do with the "unusually wealthy" politicians until they have cleared their names in court. Neither will it become a partner of any parties led by "unusually wealthy" politicians.

If Chawalit stays firm on this position, he has practically ruled out a partnership with Chat Phatthana, Chat Thai, Social Action and Muanchon, whose leaders, Chatchai, Pol Gen Praman Adireksan, Montri Phongphanit and Pol Capt Chaloem Yubamrung respectively, are appealing their confiscation of assets in court. This leaves him with only Democrat, Phalang Tham, Solidarity, Seri Tham, Ratsadon, Prachakon Thai, and Phalang Prachachon to choose from.

Phalang Prachachon, a new party, Ratsadon and Prachakon Thai have no strong opinion on this issue and thus can join any coalition that takes shape after the Sept 13 poll.

Democrat, Phalang Tham, Solidarity and Seri Tham, also a new party which is headed by ex-House speaker Dr Athit Urairat, take a similar position: They are against giving Cabinet posts to the "unusually wealthy" politicians, but they will not rule out at this early stage a partnership with Chat Phatthana, Chat Thai, Social Action or Muanchon if the "unusually wealthy" in these parties agree to stay out of the new Cabinet while their appeals are pending in court.

Apart from Chatchai, Chat Phatthana also has two other "unusually wealthy" politicians: Former foreign minister Subin Phinkhayan, who had Bt608 million in assets seized, and former finance minister Pramuan Saphawasu, who lost Bt70.7 million in assets. Forcing these three political heavyweights to stay on the sidelines while other leading lights of Chat Phatthana take government posts in a new coalition may be asking for too much of a sacrifice.

At Chat Thai, there are also three "unusually wealthy" politicians: Praman, Sano Thianthong and Watthana Atsawahem. Praman may be willing to step aside just to let his party have a chance to join a new coalition government. But Sano and Watthana may not.

Although Chatchai led his followers to desert Chat Thai for Chat Phatthana following a dispute with other senior Chat Thai executives, Chatchai will still find in Chat Thai more potential support for the premiership than in other parties. If Chat Phatthana and Chat Thai bury the hatchet, their alliance can make up the core of a fairly large coalition, especially if it includes Social Action, whose leader Montri is appealing for the return of Bt336.5 million in assets.

On the opposite fence is another likely coalition of New Aspiration, Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity, the four main opposition parties during the Suchinda administration.

This scenario indicates the country is heading for another political deadlock after the upcoming poll if the parties remain firm on the issue of assets confiscation.

Pro-Democracy Parties Reject Chatchai Candidacy

BK1708012892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Aug 92 p 1

[Text] Four pro-democracy parties yesterday announced they would not join a coalition government with former ministers of the Gen Chatchai Chunhawan administration who were declared "unusually rich" by the Assets Examination Committee.

The announcement to "ostracise" the "tainted politicians" was made individually by New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai, former Phalang Tham Party [PDP] leader Chamlong Simuang and Solidarity Party leader Uthai Phimchaichon at a forum held at Parliament yesterday.

This means that the four parties have openly rejected the premiership candidacy of the former prime minister and Chat Phatthana Party leader, Gen Chatchai, who is a strong tip for the prime ministerial post because his party is expected to win a large number of parliamentary seats in the September 13 general election.

The announcement by the four parties will also make it unlikely that they will form an alliance with Chat Phatthana to form a coalition government.

Apart from Gen Chatchai, the other "unusually rich" politicians include SAP [Social Action Party] leader Montri Phongphanit, Chat Thai leader Praman Adireksan, Muan Chon leader Chaloem Yubamrung, Sanoh Thienthong and Watthana Atsawahem, also of Chat Thai.

Former PDP leader Chamlong Simuang told the forum that his party would definitely not associate itself with the former ministers who were declared "unusually rich" by the Assets Examination Committee.

He said PDP policy clearly states that its members must not cheat either covertly or overtly.

The PDP cannot violate this policy by associating with "unusually rich" politicians in a new government.

Maj-Gen Chamlong said his party has considered this issue on the basis of individuals rather than on parties because political parties change all the time and "unusually rich" politicians often move from one party to another.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai said his party would reject the "tainted politicians" in the coalition, but would accept their parties.

"The Democrats won't have any space for them to join us," he said.

NAP leader Gen Chavalit told the forum that the public had rejected those who had been found unusually rich.

"Speaking as a NAP representative, I definitely cannot give those politicians any ministerial posts," he said.

Solidarity Party leader Uthai Phimchaichon said that including the "tainted politicians" in the next government would provide the military with a pretext for staging a coup.

Ministers must be politicians who are respected by the public and that is the main reason why the Solidarity Party rejected the idea of including those people and their parties.

Former House Speaker and Seri Tham Party leader Athit Urairat was more open-minded.

He said the "unusually rich" politicians should not be rejected out of hand but given a chance to clear their names in court.

"They should know themselves whether it is appropriate to be part of the government," he said, adding that their inclusion in the government would stain the image of the new administration.

Dr Athit also said that not all the politicians who were not declared "unusually rich" were clean.

Chat Phatthana deputy secretary-general Kon Thappharangsi shared a different idea however. He said the "unusually rich" issue was insignificant.

"What is more important is to make democracy more secure," he said.

Muan Chon leader Chaloem Yubamrung who was ruled "unusually rich" and had his assets confiscated, said he found it strange that many Thai people and politicians were against dictatorship, but, in the meantime, agreed to accept the ruling imposed by a dictatorship.

Mr Chaloem suggested that those former ministers should be given a chance to be part of the government if they could prove themselves clean in the court.

Suchinda Denies Story of Ill Health

BK1608033092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Aug 92 p A1

[Text] Former prime minister Suchinda Khraprayun, who has rarely appeared in public since he resigned in disgrace, had a friendly game of golf with Army Commander in Chief Wimon Wongwanit at the army golf course yesterday.

Gen Suchinda was seen with Gen Wimon and Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence Wirot Sangsanit at the golf course at around 8 am. The three also had lunch together after the game.

Suchinda, dressed in a white jersey and dark red pants, even walked up to and greeted a group of reporters and photographers who were watching from a distance. He denied he was ill as was speculated in some Thai-language newspapers.

"I'm fine," Suchinda told the reporters.

"It's not true I have been sick."

Press reports claimed Suchinda had been depressed since he resigned in disgrace over the May 17-20 bloody crackdown against pro-democracy protesters who were seeking his ouster.

A source close to Suchinda said the former prime minister had to take a handful of pills everyday because of his failing health. The source also said Suchinda made the appearance yesterday on the advice of friends who encouraged him to socialize more to avoid depression.

At least 52 people were killed and hundreds wounded when troops fired on unarmed protesters on Ratchadamnoen Avenue in May.

Military leaders responsible for the crackdown, including former supreme commander Kaset Rotchananin and army chief Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, were moved to inactive posts by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. Suchinda was also blamed for the bloodshed.

Army Chief Blames 13 Aug Blast on Separatists

BK1608020292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Aug 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] The bomb blast at Hat Yai railway station on Thursday which killed three people and injured more than 70 others was perpetrated by members of the outlawed Phatthani United Liberation Organisation (PULO) separatist movement, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit and Special Branch Police commander Maj-Gen Yothin Mathayomnan said separately yesterday.

Talking to reporters at the Army golf course, Gen Wimon said the separatists intended to strike fear among the people so that they could demand protection fees and seek funding from abroad.

The army chief urged the people to alert police whenever they came across suspicious baggages or packages in public places.

He also called on people not to be easily cowed by separatist threats and other intimidatory tactics.

Pol Maj-Gen Yothin, meanwhile said initial investigation by local and Special Branch police suggested that the explosion was the work of PULO bandits.

He disclosed that before the Thursday incident police had the information that the PULO bandits would stage bombing attacks in southern provinces. "But we didn't know where and when they would attack," he said.

The Special Branch police commander noted that every time the PULO staged a bomb attack it leaves behind a written statement to claim the responsibility. A similar statement was found in front of a hotel near the Hat Yai railway station, he said.

Pol Maj-Gen Yothin pointed out that the bomb blast coincided with the arrival in Hat Yai of former Phalang Tham Party [PTP] leader Chamlong Simuang to campaign for his party candidates.

The incident, he said, discouraged a number of people from attending the PTP campaign rally in Hat Yai.

He ruled out the notion that the bomb blast might be perpetrated by rival parties to strike fear among the people so that they would stay away from PTP rallies.

Maj-Gen Sitthichai Prathuangthin, deputy commander of the Fourth Army Region, said he had earlier spoken with separatist leaders and was told that a splinter group which is beyond the control of the mainstream movement was planning bomb attacks.

He said it was possible that bandit group staged the bomb attack to draw publicity ahead of a meeting in Hat Yai during Aug 18-22 of envoys from 35 Muslim countries based in Thailand.

But Interior Minister Phao Sarasin said in Hat Yai yesterday that it was still not clear that the blast was perpetrated by PULO bandits.

The minister chaired a meeting of authorities who agreed to set up an ad hoc committee to investigate the case and also to draw up preventive measures.

The committee is headed by Pol Maj-Gen Sunthon Saikhuan, deputy commissioner of Fourth Provincial Police Bureau.

The committee will report to the interior minister every three days.

Former MP Wanno Matha said, however, it was still premature to conclude that the bomb explosion was the work of PULO bandits.

The PULO needs public support as well, he reasoned.

He noted that similar incidents allegedly involving the bandits usually occurred ahead of the annual police and military reshuffle. It was possible that someone wanted to rock the boat to destabilise the position of others, he said.

Rangers Clash With Muslim Separatists in South

BK1708143092 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 17 Aug 92

[Text] Acting on a tip-off that a group of PULO [Pattani United Liberation Organization] separatists of the (To Sae Bayo) group was in Sisakhon District of Narathiwat Province to collect food supplies, authorities from the

5154th Task Force Unit and the 41st Ranger Unit in Narathiwat came to search the area this morning and clashed with the group of separatists, who numbered about seven members. The clash lasted for about 20 minutes. After the separatists retreated, the authorities asked for reinforcements from the Sisakhon Provincial Police Station in order to pursue the separatists. Later, the authorities found one of the group's camps in Sisakhon District. They found shelters and several kinds of weapons in the camp. They also found 10 letters demanding protection fees from companies in Narathiwat and Pattani Provinces. The authorities burned the camp and tried to pursue the group of separatists.

Lawyers Condemn Petition for Special Assembly

BK1408014292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Aug 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] Leading Thai lawyers yesterday described as "flagrantly offensive" a call by a group of academics, government officials and businessmen for His Majesty the King to delay signing the constitutional amendment requiring the prime minister to be an elected member of Parliament.

Deputy Prime Minister Pao Sarasin said also yesterday the petitioners' move had caused confusion among members of the public although he acknowledged the group had a constitutional right to express its views.

Law Society of Thailand President Sak Kosaengruang said the petition, drawn up by Chulalongkon University political scientist Chaianan Samuthawanit and signed by 115 people, was tantamount to advising HM the King not to exercise his constitutional power and could undermine the country's parliamentary democracy.

"The call for His Majesty the King to delay signing the constitutional amendment until after the new government is installed after the general election is flagrantly offensive," Sak said. "His Majesty the King has the power to make his judgment and he can always seek advice from the Privy Council when he needs it."

He described as unwarranted the petitioners' fear that the signing of the constitutional amendment on the prime minister's qualification could raise doubts about the legitimacy of the interim administration of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

"The Constitution stipulates that the govemment shall remain in power until a new government assumes power," Kor said.

The petitioners also requested that HM the King endorse the proposed establishment of a National Council which would supposedly represent people from all walks of life. They said the new body was aimed at promoting greater public participation in government decision-making.

Sak said the move to form a National Council would confuse voters in the Sept 13 general election and create divisiveness among members of the public. He said the move could also be seen as an attempt to involve HM the King in politics.

The Law Society of Thailand president also said it appeared the move was meant to undermine the country's parliamentary democracy because it sought to create a new representative body whose form and function were almost identical to those of the House of Representatives and Senate.

He drew attention to Article 16 of the Criminal Code which lays down a maximum prison term of seven years for any person or group of people who, through speech, publication or other means, for purposes that contradict the Constitution, try to:

—bring about changes in laws or government by force or coercion, or
—create a disturbance and riot among members of the public, or
—encourage members of the public to violate laws.

But Kor refused say outright whether the petitioners' move could be prosecuted under the law.

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Pao, asked to comment on the petitioners' move, said he believed the group had created confusion among members of the public, particularly regarding the proposed role of the council in national politics at a time when the country is preparing for a general election.

Gen Pao said many people were confusing the new body with the House of Representatives and Senate.

"I look at it this way. The proposed establishment of a national council is an opinion expressed by a group of people," Pao said. "But don't ask me to judge whether the move is appropriate or not."

Asked whether it was appropriate for Permanent Secretary for Interior Anan Anantakun to be a signatory of the controversial petition, the interior minister said he saw nothing wrong with that.

Prime Minister Anan asked to comment on the petition, said he had read about it in newspapers and still did not fully understand the petitioners' intention.

PollWatch secretary general Kothom Ariya said the idea of setting up the National Council was interesting because it could serve as an advisory body to the House of Representatives and Senate on economic, social and political issues.

But he urged the petitioners to clarify the new body's legal status and how its members were to be selected.

THE NATION Publishing Group Editor in Chief Suthichai Yun, one of the petition's signatories, yesterday called on the group to immediately withdraw the petition already presented to the Bureau of the Royal

Household to avoid offending HM the King and to end confusion among the public.

Vietnam

U.S. Movie Industry Blamed for POW-MIA 'Myth'

BK1508094092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Unattributed essay]

[Text] The story about American prisoners being left behind in Southeast Asia would not have become a top-hit myth in the United States had it not been for a factory, namely the Hollywood film industry, churning out imaginary stories on this subject. The central figure of the POW-MIA story who reached stardom as a legend in the 1980's is James Bo Gritz, a retired Special Forces major who has organized many raids into Laos to allegedly rescue prisoners. He later helped make movies and television films about these prisoners for screening all over the world.

On the night of 27 November 1982, after learning that a special group headed by Gritz had crossed the Mekong River to intrude into Laos from Thailand, Mr. Eastwood, a member of this group, flew from his California ranch to a prearranged meeting with President Reagan at his own ranch also situated in California in order to inform the latter of a raid by the group. In fact, after setting foot on Lao soil, the group led by Gritz had to go into hiding and was eventually compelled to return to Thailand because it had come to odds with a Lao anti-communist group.

On 3 December 1982, on returning to Thailand, the group headed by Gritz received a message from President Reagan in California, saying that if they could bring back a prisoner, he would immediately start a third world war to rescue those prisoners remaining behind.

Many movies on the first rescue mission have also come out. The movie "Uncommon Valor" with movie star Gene Hackman playing the role of a Marine major was screened for the 1983 Christmas season. The film "Missing in Action" with actor Chuck Norris playing the role of retired Special Force Major James Bo Gritz was made the following year—1984. In 1985, the POW-MIA myth reached its peak with the introduction of the second installment of the Rambo series titled "First Blood" starring Sylvester Stallone, who has become a contemporary superman.

The effort to revive the myth about the war is totally premeditated. The basic goal of this is to revive those scenes of war already rooted deep in the hearts of the Americans and then to completely distort them. For instance: A film showing a soldier throwing a hand grenade into an underground shelter for women and children and another picture showing a soldier using his machinegun to finish off a woman with her baby in her arms—all these suggest the My Lai massacre—have been doctored to change the soldiers in question into North Vietnamese instead of American. Another most descriptive film, which has been viewed by tens of millions of American television watchers, shows a prisoner being shot to death in the head at point blank range. The man who pointed the pistol at the temple of the prisoner was the commander of the Saigon police force. The moment the blood poured from the head of the prisoner was accurately captured on camera. Again, the killer here has been changed into a communist.

The Vietnam war is not completely over yet. And the Americans have tried to win a victory through movies in order to save face. This message was made obvious when the advertisement for the film "Missing in Action" was revealed with the sensational words: The war won't be over until the last American returns home.

The POW-MIA myth has had a profound political, cultural, and psychological impact on American society. In reality, there are thousands of homeless American Vietnam war veterans now living on the streets of the United States. They should not be called missing in action, but rather missing in America—they are the ones who have been let down by the United States.

Ceremony Held To Mark ASEAN Anniversary

BK1408142792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 9 Aug 92

[Report on ceremony held at the Thai Embassy in Hanoi on 8 August to mark ASEAN's 25th anniversary; portion recorded]

[Text] A ceremony was held in Hanoi on 8 August at the embassy of Thailand, one of the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to mark the 25th founding anniversary of the association.

Attending were the ambassadors of ASEAN countries to Vietnam. Comrade Phan Van Khai, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Nguyen Manh Cam, minister of foreign affairs, were present at the ceremony as special guests.

Speaking, Mr. Suraphong Chaiyanam, Thai ambassador to Vietnam, summed up the basic activities of ASEAN in the past 25 years, especially the development of its relations with Vietnam.

Evaluating ASEAN's role in the present regional situation, Comrade Phan Van Khai said:

[Begin Phan Van Khai recording] The fourth summit conference held in Singapore in January this year opened a new prospect for development of relations under the framework of cooperation between ASEAN and other countries in the region, including Vietnam. [end recording]

Also attending the ceremony were representatives of the diplomatic corps in Hanoi.

Further Reportage on Do Muoi Visit to Laos

12 Aug Banquet Speeches Cited

BK1408143992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Report on a banquet on 12 August in Vientiane in honor of Do Muoi-led party and state delegation; portions recorded]

[Text] Dear friends: On the evening of 12 August at the Hall of the Lao National Assembly, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], gave a grand banquet in honor of Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and members of a high-level Vietnamese party and state delegation who are now on an official friendship visit. Present were many comrade high-ranking Lao party and state officials.

On this occasion, Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan delivered a welcoming speech and Comrade Do Muoi gave a reply. You are invited to listen to the contents of these two speeches.

Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan said: [Begin Kaysone Phomvihan recording in Lao fading into Vietnamese translation] Respected and beloved Comrade Do Muoi; dear comrade members of the high-level Vietnamese party and state delegation; dear comrades and friends: Today, the party, government, and multiethnic people of Laos are extremely happy to have the great honor to welcome the high-level delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by respected and beloved Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, an intimate friend of the Lao people. We regard this visit to the LPDR by Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi as specially significant. This is because in addition to reemphasizing the profound, long-standing friendship and comradeship as well as the special solidarity between the Lao and Vietnamese peoples, this visit is also an important step in the strengthening of the relations and comprehensive cooperation between our two countries with a new quality and in conformity with the aspirations of our two countries and peoples.

Dear comrades and friends: As your close, intimate comrades who have shared weal and woe for several decades in our revolutionary struggles, we, the Lao people, have closely kept ourselves abreast of all steps forward taken by Vietnam. The Lao party, government, and people are very proud to see that after having been effectively applied to actual life, the Seventh CPV Congress resolutions have brought about fine results, thus helping Vietnam not only to gain a firm foothold but also to make steady progress.

The CPV, which was founded and trained by great President Ho Chi Minh, has positively revamped its organization, and has firmly and constantly heightened its vanguard role in the overall national renovation cause. Economic restructuring, improvement of the management mechanism, and the application of an open-door foreign policy have helped to gradually resolve and overcome many socioeconomic difficulties. The afore-mentioned achievements have originated from the traditions of profound patriotism and hard work that the entire Vietnamese party, Army, and people have developed in their struggle for national defense and construction. These achievements testify to the correct line and clearsighted leadership of the Vietnamese party and state. We highly value and appreciate all those important achievements. We believe that under the CPV's leadership, the Vietnamese people will continue to firmly advance along the path they have chosen and will certainly make their noble goals come true.

At this important and significant get-together, on behalf of the party, government, and multiethnic people of Laos, I would like to express once again our sincere expressions of profound gratitude to the fraternal Vietnamese party, government, and people for the great, valuable support and assistance they have reserved for our revolutionary cause. In this intimate atmosphere, I would like to invite everyone to toast to the success attained by the fraternal Vietnamese people in the cause of overall renovation, as well as to the great friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam. Please accept our best wishes for good health to Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, other comrade members of the high-level Vietnamese party and state delegation, and all comrades and friends present at this banquet tonight. Thank you. [long applause] [end recording]

In his reply, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi said: [Begin Do Muoi recording] Respected and beloved Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan; dear comrade Lao party and state leaders; dear comrades and friends: We are very happy to visit fraternal Laos and meet again our intimate comrades who have for many decades shared weal and woe and fought shoulder to shoulder for the independence and freedom for our respective countries, as well as for a new life for our peoples.

Since the very first moment we arrived at Wattai Airport, we have been accorded a warm welcome filled with a spirit of fraternity by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, the comrade party and state leaders of the LPDR, and the fraternal multiethnic people of Laos. At this grand reception, we are extremely moved by the fine words by Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan about our Vietnamese party, state, and people. [applause]

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to express our sincere thanks to you for your lofty sentiments. We also would like to convey the warm congratulations and cordial regards of the Vietnamese party, state, and people to all comrade party and state leaders of the LPDR and, through you, to the entire multiethnic people of Laos. [applause]

Dear comrades and friends: In our LPDR visit this time, we would like to share our joy and pride with the entire Lao party, army, and people for the great achievements they have scored in the overall work of the renovation in accordance with the spirit of the LPRP Fifth Congress resolutions. These achievements of the Lao people are the fruit of the LPRP's correct and creative renovation line and the determination of the entire multiethnic people of Laos to rally around the party Central Committee headed by respected and beloved Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan in striving to build Laos into a peaceful, independent, unified, democratic, and prosperous country.

The Vietnamese people sincerely wish the fraternal multiethnic people of Laos even greater victories in the cause of national defense and construction, as well as in the task of making the Land of the Million Elephants ever more prosperous and of contributing to peace and progress in the region and the rest of the world.

Dear comrades and friends: At present, in the light of the Seventh CPV Congress resolution, our entire party, Army, and people are striving to overcome all difficulties and challenges to carry on the renovation aimed at making the people rich and the country powerful along the socialist path chosen by President Ho Chi Minh and our people. We are happy to inform you that we have scored encouraging achievements and have firmly maintained political stability. Far from experiencing upheavals, our economy has recorded many changes for the better, thus opening bright prospects for future developments. Our international relations have also been broadened to create favorable conditions for us in building and defending our country. All these initial yet important achievements testify to the correctness of our party-initiated renovation line. Our entire party, Army, and people are determined to persist in this path.

Dear comrades and friends: It is not easy to find such a lasting, loyal, and candid relationship as the one between the Vietnamese and Lao peoples. Our countries are both leaning against the Truong Son Mountain and drinking water from the Mekong River. We both were subjected to foreign domination and aggression and stood shoulder to shoulder in the fight for the liberation and independence of each country. In the new period of national construction, again our nations are sharing weal and woe and helping each other. The millenary history of peaceful coexistence and the centuries-old history of mutual support in fighting and in national construction have fostered a special relationship, an invaluable common legacy, and a factor of decisive significance for the success of the revolution of each country. That relationship has been legalized by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, the 15th signing anniversary of which has just been celebrated. That treaty will forever remain a firm basis for the further consolidation and development of the all-sided relations between our two countries. Our party and people are determined to safeguard the Vietnamese-Lao relations as if they were the apple of our eyes and to give this excellent heritage to our younger generations to safeguard forever. [applause]

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere and profound gratitude to the Lao party, state, and multiethnic people of Laos for having provided great support and invaluable assistance to our Vietnamese people in carrying out the task of defending, building, and developing our country. [applause]

In this atmosphere of friendship and fraternity, I would like to invite all of you to toast the multiethnic people of Laos, wishing them even greater achievements in carrying out the renovation and in implementing the Fifth LPRP Congress resolution. It is our hope that the friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos will last forever, and that Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan and other party and state leaders of the LPDR, as well as all comrades and friends present at this banquet tonight will continue to enjoy good health. [long applause] [end recording]

Mass Meeting Held for Do Muoi

BK1608151992 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 16—A mass meeting was held in Vientiane this morning in honour of the visit of the high-level Vietnamese party and state delegation led by General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Muoi.

Present at the meeting were Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Laos People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and President of the Republic Nouhak Phoumsavan, politburo member of the LPRP Central Committee and president of the Lao Supreme People's Assembly Khamtai Siphandon, politburo member of the LPRP central committee and prime minister and other Lao senior officials.

In his opening speech, Nouhak Phoumsavan described the visit as an event of great significance, and praised the constant development of the Lao-Vietnamese special solidarity built up by President Ho Chi Minh and the two parties.

Party general secretary Do Muoi on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation delivered a speech at the meeting.

Yesterday the Vietnamese delegation visited the Nam Ngum hydro-electric power plant, a textile mill and a vocational training center in Vietiane under the management of the Lao Women's Union, and received the leadership of the Laos-Vietnam Friendship Association.

At 15:00 hrs this afternoon, the Vietnamese delegation left Vientiane. It were seen-off at Wattai airport by Kaysone Phomvihan, Nouhak Phoumsavan and Khamtai Siphandon, and others.

Late this afternoon, the delegation arrived back home, concluding a 5-day visit to Laos.

Joint Communique on Visit

BK1608144692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Aug 92

["Text" of joint communique on visit by SRV party and state delegation led by party General Secretary Do Muoi to the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 12-16 August]

[Text] 1. A high-level party and state delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, paid an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] from 12-16 August 1992 at the invitation of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of the LPDR.

2. While in Laos, General Secretary Do Muoi and his entourage paid a courtesy call on Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan, visited the comrade advisers to the LPRP Central Committee, laid wreaths at the Monument of Lao Fallen Heroes, and toured a number of economic and cultural establishments in Vientiane and the provinces of Savannakhet, Champassak, Saravane, and Vientiane. Comrade Do Muoi and his entourage were accorded very cordial and grand receptions by the local leading officials and multiethnic people of Laos.

3. The Vietnamese party and state delegation led by General Secretary Do Muoi held talks with the Lao party and state delegation led by Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan in an atmosphere of comradeship and fraternity.

Also participating in those talks, on the Vietnamese side were Comrade Nguyen Quyet, vice chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers; Phan Van Khai, member of the Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers standing body, and chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Sub-Committee; Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the party Central Committee, deputy minister of national defense, and chief of the Vietnam's People Army [VPA] General Staff; Phan Dien, chief of the Office of the party Central Committee; Ha Nghiep, assistant to the general secretary; Nguyen Van Son, deputy chief of the party Central Committee Foreign Relations Department; Tran Khai, deputy director of the State Planning Commission and vice chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Sub-Committee; and Nguyen Xuan, ambassador extraordianary and plenipotentiary of the SRV to the LPDR.

On the Lao side were Comrade Phoun Sipasseut, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and concurrently minister of foreign affairs; Khamphoui Keoboualapha, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and concurrently minister of economy, planning, and finance; Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the party Central Committee and minister attached to the Presidential Office; Phao Bounnaphon, member of the party Central Committee, minister attached to the Council of Ministers, and head of Office of the Council of Ministers; Chaleun Yiapaoheu, member of the party Central Committee and member of the National Assembly Standing Committee; Lieutenant General Ai Souli-gnaseng, member of the party Central Committee and deputy minister of national defense; Khamsai Souphanouvong, member of the party Central Committee and deputy minister of economics, planing, and finance; Thongloun Sisoulit, member of the party Central Committee, deputy head of the party Central Committee Foreign Relations Board, and deputy foreign affairs minister; and Khamphet Phengmeuang, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the LPDR to the SRV.

The leaders of the two parties and states informed one another of the situation of each party and country following Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan's visit to Vietnam in October 1991; reviewed the implementation of the agreements reached by the leaders of the two states; discussed measures to consolidate, renovate, and further develop the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos; and exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern.

4. Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan highly valued the achievements in all fields that the Vietnamese people have scored so far, especially in the first half of 1992. These achievements testify to the correctness of the renovation line set forth and guided by the CPV. Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan sincerely wished the fraternal Vietnamese people even greater achievements in the cause of renovation and the implementation of the Seventh CPV Congress Resolution aimed at making the people prosperous and the nation powerful, building socialism, and making a worthy contribution to the world people's common cause of peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

General Secretary Do Muoi warmly welcomed the comprehensive achievements that the multiethnic people of Laos have scored so far in their renovation undertaking aimed at building and developing a people's democratic system, promoting socioeconomic and cultural development, improving the people's living conditions, firmly maintaining public security and order, consolidating national defense capabilities, and broadening relations with other countries in the world.

General Secretary Do Muoi sincerely wished the multiethnic people of Laos even great achievements in implementing the Fifth LPRP Congress Resolution and in carrying out the renovation undertaking aimed at building Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous country for the sake of the happiness of the multiethnic people of Laos and in the interest of peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and other parts of the world.

5. General Secretary Do Muoi and Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan noted with pleasure that so far, the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the SRV and the LPDR have been

consolidated, renewed, and developed a step further in accordance with the spirit of the joint communique dated 15 October 1991.

Both sides highly valued the results of a friendship visit to the LPDR in February 1992 by Comrade Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers. They commended the ministries, sectors, and localities in both countries for their continued efforts to implement the signed agreements and protocols. Their efforts have yielded initial yet very encouraging results which are proof of new development in bilateral relations.

Leaders of the two parties and states reasserted their determination to make untiring efforts to consolidate and further strengthen the relations of friendship and special solidarity between Vietnam and Laos, as well as to continue to renovate cooperation procedures so as to improve quality and work efficiency in keeping with each country's capabilities and on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, equality, mutual interest, and a sincere desire to assist each other in a spirit of comradeship and fraternity, thus complying with each party's renovation line; meeting the basic and long-term interests of the two peoples; and responding to the trends of peace, friendship, cooperation, and development in Southeast Asia.

6. General Secretary Do Muoi and Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan stressed that the world situation is continuing to undergo quick changes, that the threat of another world war has been pushed back, and that new opportunities have emerged. Given that complicated situation, more than ever before, forces of peace and social progress as well as each nation should make efforts to establish new, healthy international relations guaranteeing conditions for all nations to enjoy equality and achieve cooperation to benefit each country's development and prosperity, as well as to promote peace, stability, and friendship in every part of the world on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Prompted by that spirit, the Vietnamese and Lao leaders reasserted their determination to carry on their open-door foreign policies based on diversified and multilateral activities aimed at strengthening their relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries in the region and other parts of the world.

7. The leaders of the two parties and states expressed their satisfaction at new, positive developments in each country's relations with the People's Republic of China and the Southeast Asian countries. Both sides unanimously maintained that the official participation of the SRV and the LPDR in the Southeast Asia Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in late July of this year marks a new development in the relations among countries in the region. This development has contributed to consolidating and strengthening mutual trust and has opened up new prospects for cooperation and development in the entire region.

8. As signatories to the Paris agreement on a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue, the two sides will continue to join hands with other countries and parties concerned to positively help with the peace process in Cambodia. The two sides maintained that violations against the agreement constitute acts of sabotage against the cause of national reconciliation and concord in Cambodia, and pose a threat to peace and stability in Cambodia and the region.

Being Cambodia's neighboring countries, the two sides fully support the cause of national reconciliation and concord in Cambodia and call for a scrupulous implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia so as to help build this country into a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned nation maintaining friendly relations with all nations, first of all with neighboring countries. This stance meets the Cambodian people's aspirations and is consistent with the trends of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in the region and in other parts of the world.

9. Being member countries of the Nonaligned Movement, the SRV and the LPDR will continue to contribute to the common efforts of other member countries of this movement. As an immediate objective, the two sides will contribute to the success of the Non-Aligned Movement summit scheduled to take place in Jakarta in September 1992 in order to struggle for peace, national independence, social progress, and the establishment of a new international politico-economic order based on equality, fairness, and respect for the interests of all members of the world community, regardless of the sizes of their population, their wealth, or their political system.

10. General Secretary Do Muoi and the Vietnamese party and state delegation sincerely thanked the party, state, and the multiethnic people of Laos for the grand, cordial reception and all the fraternal sentiments they were accorded, regarding these as a vivid manifestation of the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos.

Vientiane, 16 August 1992

Do Muoi Thanks Kaysone on Visit

BK1708031792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] After leaving Vientiane for Hanoi, Comrade Do Muoi, general secretaray of the Communist Party of Vietnam, sent a thank you message to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and president of the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic].

The message says: Returning to Vietnam after the official friendship visit to the LPDR, on behalf of the high-ranking party and state delegation, I would like to convey to Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan and, through you, to the Lao leaders and people, my sincere thanks for the warm welcome, hospitality, and comradely sentiments extended to me and my delegation during the visit.

The Vietnamese party, state, and people will do their best to consistently consolidate and strengthen the special friendship and solidarity as well as the comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos for the interest of people in each country and for peace, stability, and progress in the region and the rest of the world.

I sincerely wish the multiethnic people of Laos, under the LPRP leadership, ever greater achievements in implementing the renovation undertaking, and success in building Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified, and prosperous nation.

Do Muoi Interviewed on Results

BK1708044992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Interview with General Secretary Do Muoi by NHAN DAN correspondent on results of Do Muoi's official friendship visit to Laos; on the return flight from Vientiane to Hanoi on 16 August—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, would you please appraise your official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic?

[Do Muoi] Our delegation was very elated at the warm welcome, hospitality, and fraternal sentiment extended to us by the Lao party, state, and people throughout our visit in the capital city of Vientiane as well as in other provinces. At all localities we visited, various Lao leading echelons and people showed their profound, sincere, pure, and loyal sentiments toward the Vietnamese people, thereby manifesting the fraternal relationship between the two peoples who worked shoulder to shoulder during the struggle for national independence and in building and defending the fatherland at present. In official talks, both sides respectively informed each other of the implementation of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Congress' resolution and the Fifth Lao People's Revolutionary Party Congress' resolution. Both sides also reviewed the implementation of agreements reached by leadership of the two nations, discussed concrete measures to continue carrying out the renovation and developing the special friendship and solidarity as well as the comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. Both delegations also exchanged and shared views on regional and international issues of mutual concern. This visit has, indeed, marked a further step in the development of the relations in all aspects between Vietnam and Laos. This visit is a very successful one.

[Correspondent] Would you please elaborate on the potential of the special friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two countries?

[Do Muoi] The potential of these relations is great. Vietnam and Laos have enjoyed a time-honored tradition of solidarity and assistance in the struggle against foreign aggression in the past as well as in developing their potential to accelerate multifaceted cooperation for national construction and defense at present. On the basis of the decades-long special friendship and solidarity between the two peoples, the Vietnam-Laos Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation was signed on 18 July 1977. With efforts by both sides, I am convinced that the comprehensive relationship and cooperation between the two countries will be consistently consolidated and developed. At present, the governments, ministries, sectors, and localities of the two nations are striving to implement various agreements signed by both sides in February 1992 and have had initial, yet very encouraging results. This has encouraged our two peoples to surge forward toward ever greater achievements in their cooperation to build Vietnam and Laos more prosperous. Against the background of complex, profound, and swift changes in the international situation at present, both sides have expressed the determination to improve their cooperation to enhance results and efficacy to meet the fundamental and long-term interests of the two peoples, thereby contributing to consolidating peace, stability, friendship, cooperation, and development in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

NHAN DAN Hails Success of Visit

BK1708050192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Aug 92

[Text] NHAN DAN today, 17 August, carries an editorial entitled: "New Important Factors Accelerating the Vietnam-Laos Special Relationship." The editorial stresses: The official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic by the Vietnamese high-ranking party and state delegation led by General Secretary Do Muoi, was concluded with a splendid success.

The success of this visit has marked a new, important progress in developing the special relationship and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos, thus meeting the aspiration and interests of the two peoples. The fine results of this visit are significant factors that help accelerate and develop the special friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the two nations. This is the manifestation of new determination by the parties, states, and peoples of the two countries to continue developing their traditional, pure, and loyal relationship to expand and enhance the efficacy of the Vietnam-Laos comprehensive cooperation, thereby meeting requirements of the renovation undertaking in their respective countries.

The Vietnamese people welcome the success of the official friendship visit to Laos by the Vietnamese high-ranking party and state delegation. We consider this an important event in commemorating the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Vietnam-Laos Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. We have always realized that the Vietnam-Laos special relationship is a common, priceless asset of our two peoples and a decisive factor ensuring success for the revolution in each country.

While making efforts to foster the Vietnam-Laos loyal and pure friendship, we have strived to befriend all countries to expand cooperation for peace, security, independence, and development in the region and the world.

Joint Trade Agreement Signed in Kuala Lumpur

BK1308160392 Hanoi VNA in English 1558 GMT 13 Aug 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 13—Vietnam and Malaysia signed in Kuala Lumpur on August 11 a trade agreement. Signatories to the agreement were Vietnam's Minister of Trade and Tourism Le Van Triet and Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz. Before signing the agreement, the two ministers had a working session to review the economic and trade relations between the two countries, and discuss measures to create favorable conditions for the business circles of the two countries to develop their trade realtions.

Australia

Evans Supports UN Decision on Force in Bosnia

BK1408070092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Australia has given its full backing to the UN Security Council's decision to authorize the use of military force in delivering humanitarian aid to parts of Bosnia.

The Australian foreign affairs minister, Gareth Evans, has also appealed to all parties to heed the Security Council's call and end the fighting throughout the former Yugoslavia.

Senator Evans said the UN has sent a very tough message to warring parties, especially the Serbian forces which have been held largely responsible for the bloodshed.

Fiji

Ill Prime Minister Rabuka Cancels Engagements

BK1408070292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Fiji's prime minister, Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, is ill and has cancelled all public engagements.

Radio Fiji says Gen. Rabuka became ill after returning to Suva on Wednesday from attending council meetings at (Travenu). The nature of his illness has not been disclosed, but the government spokesman says he has been advised to rest for several days.

Vanuatu

President To Go to New Zealand for Medical Care

BK1408074892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0619 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Port Vila, Aug 14 (AFP)—President Fred Timakata of Vanuatu is due to leave here Saturday to undergo medical treatment in New Zealand, state-run radio announced here Friday.

The radio said Timakata, 55, had spent "some days" in Port Vila's small Central Hospital, but no details were released about the nature of his illness.

Timakata was elected for a five-year term in January 1989 after President George Sokomanu was dismissed and briefly jailed for supporting an unsuccessful attempt to oust prime minister Walter Lini.

Ex-President Nominated for South Pacific Body

BK1408075492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 14 Aug 92

[Text] Port Vila, Aug 14 (AFP)—Vanuatu on Friday officially named former president George Sokomanu as its candidate for the post of secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission.

Alfred Carlot, first secretary at the Foreign Ministry, said that Vanuatu would present only one name for the position, as "any other submission will only jeopardize Vanuatu's official nominee."

Sokomanu was dismissed as president and briefly jailed after supporting an unsuccessful attempt to oust then-prime minister Walter Lini in 1988.

His successor, Fred Timakata, is still president.

Sokomanu's name was mentioned in the final press release of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) meeting, which took place here July 29. All members of the MSG—Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia—agreed to support the candidate from Vanuatu.

The South Pacific Commission is based in Noumea and groups 22 Pacific island countries plus Australia, Britain, France, New Zealand and the United States.

The commission's role is to provide technical advice, training, assistance and information in economic, social and cultural fields to the 22 island countries.

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